Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-230
Wednesday
30 November 1988

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-230 *30 November 1988*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Announces Upcoming Visit to Mexico *[Havana International]* 1
Gorbachev Remarks Noted at Supreme Soviet *[Havana Radio]* 1
Constitutional Changes Noted *[Havana Radio]* 1
Response to U.S. Remarks on Industrial Plant *[Havana Radio]* 1
* High Party Official Responds To Radio Marti *[BOHEMIA 28 Oct]* 1
Soviet-Made Equipment Used in Oil Drilling *[Havana TV]* 2
Foreign Trade Minister Arrives in CSSR *[Havana Radio]* 2
Rodriguez Receives Latin American Journalists *[Havana TV]* 3
ANPP President Attends Ibero-American Congress *[Havana TV]* 3
Government Reportedly Denies Visa to Dissident *[ACAN]* 3
Minister Returns From PASO Meeting *[Havana TV]* 3
Sugar Technicians' Association Congress Ends *[Havana TV]* 3
Students Graduate From Soviet Schools *[Havana Radio]* 4
Ibero-American Conference on Education Opens *[Havana Radio]* 4
President Chissano Comments on Recent Visit *[Havana TV]* 4
First Hydrographic Boat Operational in Dec *[Havana Radio]* 4
Investment Plans Include Matanzas Projects *[Havana Radio]* 4
Council of State Institutes Jose Marti Medal *[Havana Radio]* 5
Seminar on Use of Computers in Banks Begins *[Havana TV]* 5
Seminar Ends *[Havana TV]* 5
March Shows Supports for Anticrime Operations *[Havana Radio]* 6

Haiti

Party Leader on Commemoration of 29 Nov *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Theodore's Position Noted *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Youth Murders Noted; 'Bloodbath' in Anse Rouge *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
Justice Minister Issues Memo on Striking *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
Minister Reshuffles Agriculture Ministry *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
Political Leader Returns, Makes Statement *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9
Central Bank Authorized To Issue Currency *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9
Sugar Shortage Causes Plant Shutdown *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9
Secret Recruiting of Canecutters Denounced *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 10
Detective Captured; Section Chiefs Denounced *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 10

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Prime Minister, Delegation Depart for Miami *[CANA]* 10

Trinidad and Tobago

Ruling Party Retains Control of Assembly *[CANA]* 11
Landslide Victory *[CANA]* 11
Vote Termed 'Inconclusive' *[CANA]* 12

MEXICO

Castro's Arrival in Mexico Confirmed 28 Nov *[NOTIMEX]* 13
De la Madrid Delivers Farewell Address *[Mexico City TV]* 13
Reviews Term, Achievements *[EXCELSIOR 25 Nov]* 14
Economic Efforts Cited *[EXCELSIOR 26 Nov]* 17

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Army's Involvement in 'Death Squads' Denied *[San Salvador TV]* 20
Recent Rebel Military Activities Reported *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 20
Battle Reports Aired *[Radio Venceremos]* 21
Captured Rebel 'Tortured' *[Radio Venceremos]* 21
Ungo Labels Democratic Merger 'Major Force' *[San Salvador TV]* 21

Guatemala

Cerezo Seeks Meeting With Area Presidents *[ACAN]* 22
Minister Rules Out Land Reform by Expropriation *[EL GRAFICO 28 Nov]* 22

Honduras

Azcona 'Willing To Meet' With Ortega in Mexico *[ACAN]* 23
FMLN Attacks Salvador-Honduras Bridge *[Tegucigalpa TV]* 23

Nicaragua

Ortega Extends Cease-Fire for 1 Month *[Managua Radio]* 23
Ortega Praises Legacy of Mexico's Zapata *[Managua Radio]* 24
Ramirez Cited on 'Economic Crimes,' Corruption *[Managua Radio]* 24
New Radio Sandino Director Appointed *[LA PRENSA 26 Nov]* 25
Arce on Economic Measures for Working Class *[BARRICADA 27 Nov]* 25
Value of Cordoba Drops, Dollar Rises *[Managua Radio]* 25

Panama

Authorities Release Two IRHE Labor Leaders *[Hamburg DPA]* 25
Ritter To Attend Mexican President's Inauguration
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 28 Nov] 26
Housing Minister Discusses U.S. Army Leases *[MATUTINO 29 Nov]* 26
Solis Palma: U.S. Misinterprets Panama Problems *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 26
Further Comments Noted *[Panama City Radio]* 27
PDC's Arias on Opposition Document, Elections *[Panama City Radio]* 27
Lewis Galindo Supports Opposition Unity Plan *[Madrid EFE]* 30
Plan Rejected by UNADE *[Panama City TV]* 30
PdP's Souza Supports Noriega for President *[AFP]* 30
Labor Union Leader Comments on Unemployment *[Panama City TV]* 31
Construction Experiencing '85-Percent Decline' *[Panama City TV]* 31

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Communique Supports Palestinian Independence *[TELAM]* 32
Alfonsin, Sarney Speak on Integration Treaty 32
Alfonsin Speech *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 32
Sarney Speech *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 33
Alfonsin, Sarney Hold First Meeting *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 34
Sign Ezeiza Nuclear Statement *[TELAM]* 34

Uruguay's Sanguinetti Arrives for Meetings *[TELAM]* 35
Alfonsin Visits Federal Republic of Germany *[Cross-reference]* 35
Defense Minister Questioned on Armed Forces *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 35
Alfonsin Appoints Garzon New Labor Secretary *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 36
Joint Venture With U.S. Will Exploit Lithium *[TELAM]* 36
Pipeline Construction Under Study With Chile *[Madrid EFE]* 36
IDB, World Bank Grant Loans for Energy Sector *[DYN]* 36
Daylight Saving Time Implemented To Save Energy *[DYN]* 36
New Version of Armored Vehicle Announced *[LA PRENSA 26 Nov]* 36
Ozone Monitoring Station Dedicated in Antarctica *[TELAM]* 37
Telephoto Transmission From Antarctica Reported *[TELAM]* 37
Molotov Cocktails Damage Police Automobiles *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 37

Chile

Government Reacts to UN Human Rights Resolution *[Santiago TV]* 38
* PCCh Party Leader on Negotiations, Goals *[ANALISIS 24 Oct]* 38
Sinclair Takes Oath as Government Junta Member *[Santiago Radio]* 39
Finance Minister Reports on Trade Balance *[EL MERCURIO 24 Nov]* 39
Government Appoints 10th Region Intendant *[EL MERCURIO 24 Nov]* 40
Southern Military Region Commander Appointed *[EL MERCURIO 25 Nov]* 40
New 5th Army Division Commander Installed *[EL MERCURIO 23 Nov]* 40

Colombia

FARC, M-19 Accept Government Peace Proposal *[Bogota TV]* 40
General Henao Comments on Antiguerrilla Actions *[Hamburg DPA]* 40
M-19 Inflicts 2 Casualties on Army in Caqueta *[Radio Patria Libre]* 40
* Guerrillas Seek Dialogue With Government *[EL TIEMPO 25 Oct]* 41

Ecuador

Borja Declines Invitation to Mexican Inauguration *[Quito Radio]* 41

Paraguay

Official Seeks Foreign Private Investment *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 24 Nov]* 41
Political Analyst Miranda Released From Jail *[HOY 29 Nov]* 42
Police Prevent PLRA 'Routine Meeting' *[EL DIARIO 28 Nov]* 42
Archbishopric Communique on Concepcion Events *[EL DIARIO 27 Nov]* 42
Drug Control Personnel Arrest Trafficker *[ULTIMA HORA 29 Nov]* 43

Peru

Shining Path Reportedly Linked to Mining Strike *[Lima TV]* 43
Striking Miners Clash With Police, Arrests Made *[Madrid EFE]* 43

Uruguay

Sanguinetti To Meet With Alfonsin, Sarney *[Montevideo Radio]* 44
Third Opposition Presidential Candidate Announced *[Madrid EFE]* 44

Venezuela

Presidential Candidate Perez Interviewed *[Paris LE MONDE 24 Nov]* 44

Cuba

Castro Announces Upcoming Visit to Mexico

PA3011002388 Havana International Service in Spanish 0039 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Text] President Fidel Castro confirmed today that he will attend the inauguration of Mexican President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari on 1 December.

President Castro made the announcement during the main ceremony held to mark the 30th anniversary of the Battle of Guisa in Granma Province.

Gorbachev Remarks Noted at Supreme Soviet

FL2911192288 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1526 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The top leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, today stressed the principal role of the CPSU in the process of change that is occurring in the USSR. Upon opening the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Soviet leader said that the change in the Soviets—the fundamental principal of the amendments—is in response to the initiatives of the CPSU.

The CPSU is the driving force of all society and only as a vanguard revolutionary force can its progress be guaranteed, said the highest Soviet leader.

Gorbachev also said during his speech that democracy is not anarchy or voluntarism. It is inseparable from discipline and the struggle against negative deficiencies, he said. The Soviet leader also proposed the creation of a special parliamentary work group which would include deputies from all the republics of the USSR.

Constitutional Changes Noted

FL2911190888 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1504 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Two draft proposals amending the Soviet Union's Constitution and electoral law today received extensive support at a meeting of the USSR Supreme Soviet in Moscow.

The first speaker this morning was Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Those who see excess centralization in the proposed modifications in detriment to the sovereignty of the republics are unjustified, he said. The Soviet leader said that political reform requires the revision of the Constitution in stages and he said that, in the future, matters related to the sovereignty of the republics will be discussed with the participation of their representatives.

The delegates to the meeting of the USSR Supreme Soviet also supported Gorbachev's initiatives to change the role of the organs of the people's government at all levels.

Response to U.S. Remarks on Industrial Plant

FL2911194488 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Based on certain foreign press reports, we have learned that some agent in the United States was bothered by the recent inauguration of the Ignacio Agramonte mechanical plant [planta mecanica] in Camaguey. If we didn't understand the obsessive syndrome against Cuba, it would be impossible to find an explanation to such malaise. What do they want? Do they want us to just cross our arms? Do they want the nation to neglect its defense? Do they want us to forget the existence, 90 miles away, of the center of imperialist power—the most powerful in the world—always threatening, always aggressive, always opportunistic? If that is what they think of our country, they are absolutely nuts. Cuba will never consider sufficient all the measures it takes to strengthen its defensive capacity and to organize its people for battle.

On other occasions we have said that an imperialist aggression against our country is not a speculation, it is something that can be shown by history. Maybe for some, the measures taken by the Cuban revolution for its defense appear exaggerated. They have the right to think that way. However, for us, the decisions seem wise. Three decades of poor geographical coexistence with the empire leaves us at least with experience.

As for everything else, there is no need for dramatics. The Ignacio Agramonte mechanical plant inaugurated by Fidel is only a link, although an important one, in holding together our defense strategy which is based on the war of all the people. It is part of the material guarantee to carry out that war, if necessary. It is also to make the empire understand that this country will never again be turned into a neocolony to be governed by lackeys.

* High Party Official Responds To Radio Marti

32480036 Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 28 Oct 88 p 20

[Commentary by Raul Valdes Vivo]

[Text] The foreign radio station that, besides being our enemy, is a supreme insult to our people because it usurps the name most venerated by them, is attacking Cuba day after day for something that would have been preposterous even to imagine a short while ago: not taking after the Soviet Union. When it began its broadcasts and for a long time, up to now in fact, the argument against Cuba was just the opposite. The revolution that made Marti's homeland true to Marti had to be overthrown because it was following the path that was opened up by the October Revolution. It was the same jargon that was used back in Mella's days: repudiate "exotic doctrines." Even a child can see that through

these two types of disinformation campaigns our ideological rivals are seeking to sow doubts not so much in our people as in their friends, everywhere, including the liberal democratic sectors in the United States, because in both cases the insidious design is to portray Cuba and Castro as warmongers and troublemakers. How afraid they are of saying "Fidel," as we Cubans do because we feel that he is close to us, one of us, the first among us!

The main objective of imperialism and its mouthpieces remains the international isolation of the first country in our Americas that has achieved absolute national independence through its own efforts by sweeping away Yankee neocolonialism once and for all. And it has recovered for the working people the wealth that the American monopolies had stolen from them in an unholy alliance with their opportunistic and submissive, not cheeky servant, the bloc made up of the native bourgeoisie and large estate owners. This prompted the United States to hand down its first death sentence against the Cuban Revolution, confirming what Marti had foresightedly warned about at a time when he was surrounded by another enemy, the Spanish colonial army, and writing another page in our history with his blood as a national hero.

When the revolutionary Cuban people, entirely of their own free will, moved into the phase of social liberation, culminating the charge that Martinez Villena had sounded and that began at the Moncada, the haughty masters who had been displaced handed down the second death sentence. When we added to our socialism an internationalist element, in the manner of Maximo Gomez and "Che" Guevara, on African soil, whence came our forefathers as slaves, and when we joined in common struggle shoulder to shoulder with the heroic patriots of Angola, a third death sentence was pronounced in the fetid Washington air. Ultimately, our internationalism had to be accepted, and peace is being negotiated in southern Africa. The fourth sentence is already well known: Ethiopia. Haven't they handed down a fifth sentence with their moral and material solidarity with the glorious revolutionaries of Nicaragua, Grenada, El Salvador and Chile, to which the CIA gave Pinochet, with all of the peoples that are reaching for the light? And the sixth death sentence has been handed down because Cuba said that those who have already paid up do not have to, that the immoral foreign debt ought to be canceled. Fidel's prescription protects the interests of all: use for this purpose what is now being thrown away in the arms race, which was invented by the United States and against which the USSR, true to itself, has always fought, from Lenin to Gorbachev. The seventh sentence is for encouraging Christians on the bottom and those on top who are good shepherds of souls to join with the communists, the workers, the peasants, the poor and the people of good will, because although their philosophies about an afterlife may differ, down here they are against the hell of oppression, exploitation, drugs, prostitution and the degradation of men and peoples and for peace, social progress, democracy and the dignity that Marti clamored for as the primary law, which it is in socialist Cuba.

Moreover, the past accusation that the Cuban Revolution was a carbon copy of the Soviet experience, which justified Yankee aggression against us, was as false as the charge that Cuba is rejecting the new course of the USSR, "perestroyka," about which these gringos and the people who out-gringo the gringos are now squealing, inasmuch as Moscow is not complaining about anything of the sort. Just as Batista was not the descendant of a Russian czar, our revolution has not been imported from anywhere, nor has it been made in the image and likeness of any other revolution. Each people has its own history, geography, idiosyncrasies, traditions and problems and, therefore, must chart its own course. Ours was a creative course: from its beginning with an assault to secure arms for the people, until it was taken up again with the armed expedition that became a guerrilla force and a general uprising of the nation's finest elements. Our originality is always expressed along the lines of the masses, their powerful organizations, study and hard work, real human rights.

Soviet-Made Equipment Used in Oil Drilling

FL2911195888 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The first machine for oil drilling in our country's ocean has begun its operations in the Cardenas Bay, Matanzas Province. The Soviet-made machine was installed on the artificial islet which is connected to terra firma via the first causeway built in Cardenas Bay.

The well in which the drilling began will be 3,500 meters and has an experienced crew which is noted for the good quality work they do in installing equipment and components.

Thus, new possibilities for the exploitation of gas-oil resources are opened in zones of the insular platform with a lot of prospects, according to geological studies made.

Foreign Trade Minister Arrives in CSSR

FL2911171188 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1510 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas today arrived in Prague on an official visit during which he will sign the 1989 trade protocol with the CSSR. During his stay in the CSSR, the Cuban minister will meet with his Czechoslovak counterpart, Jan Sterba, and with government authorities from that European socialist nation.

Cabrisas also held talks in Moscow with Acting Foreign Trade Minister (Aleksandr Katchanov) on the signing of a bilateral trade protocol for 1989. That agreement will be signed by the end of December and, according to specialists, it will be the earliest date for signing an agreement in the past 20 years.

Cuban-Soviet trade now exceeds 8 billion rubles a year.

Rodriguez Receives Latin American Journalists
FL2911172488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1337 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received yesterday afternoon a group of Latin American journalists who are attending the 13th Seminar of Latin American Journalists.

The meeting is being hosted by the Union of Cuban Journalists and the International Organization of Journalists. The meeting opened on 21 November with a debate on Cuba's image in the continent's mass media.

ANPP President Attends Ibero-American Congress
FL2911160288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Severo Aguirre, president [as heard] of the National Assembly of the People's Government of Cuba [ANPP], said he is in favor of reaching an agreement on the economic problems which burden Latin America.

In statements made to the press after closing the Sixth Conference of Ibero-American Congress Presidents, Aguirre expressed his wish that agreements be reached at the meeting on the essential problems which affect the Ibero-American region. Severo Aguirre said those problems are basically the foreign debt, unequal trade, and protectionism which jointly affects all of Latin America.

Government Reportedly Denies Visa to Dissident
PA2411044788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0940 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Havana, 22 Nov (EFE)—It was reported today that the Cuban Government has denied a temporary travel visa to dissident Elizardo Sanchez Santacruz, who has been invited to attend the 11th Ibero-American Congress on Human Rights, scheduled to open in Extremadura, Spain, on 28 November.

In an unprecedented move, Sanchez Santacruz, who is president of the illegal "Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation," was officially authorized in May to travel to the United States, Puerto Rico, and Costa Rica, where he spent 110 days before returning to Cuba.

Sanchez Santacruz told the foreign press today that he has received a "categorical denial" to his request to attend the Congress at the invitation of Jose Antonio Martin Palli, president of the Spanish Association for Human Rights. [passage omitted]

With a Spanish visa and plane ticket in hand, Sanchez said he had planned to attend the Congress "on a personal basis," and not as "president of the commission," the legalization of which has been "repeatedly" denied. [passage omitted]

Minister Returns From PASO Meeting
FL2311040288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, president of the organizing committee for the 1991 Pan-American games, arrived in our capital just 2 hours ago from San Juan, Puerto Rico where he was attending the 25th PASO [Pan-American Sports Organization] General Assembly.

In an interview for this newscast, the Cuban official refers to the PASO meeting.

[Begin Fernandez recording] I think it was a very good assembly. A spirit of frienship and peace reigned, as well as a desire to analyze the problems from the region's point of view and keeping in mind the countries' capabilities. For us, it was a very pleasant experience. First, very briefly we informed the executive officer. Then, we informed the assembly. A video was shown. I think it was very appealing and convincing for those who listened to us. I think the most noteworthy aspect were the numerous details which we had alredy worked out in our report. In other words, we have already set up the schedule for the games, places, type of activities, and a series of details—which, for now, are probably ahead of ourselves, but for next year, we are behind in what we have to present. This means, that we cannot get excited with what has already been done, but that this plan still needs to be perfected and adjusted through contacts with all the federations, through discussions, analysis, and consultations with PASO so that this will turn out smoothly. [end recording]

Sugar Technicians' Association Congress Ends
FL2611025588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] After 5 days of working sessions at the Palace of Conventions, the 45th Congress of the Sugar Technicians Association [ATAC] has ended. Simultaneously with the closing of this event, the national plenum of the sugar harvest was also held. During the plenum, emphasis was placed on the role of the Cuban sugar technicians in achieving the goals and results set out by our country in the current sugar harvest. Special emphasis was placed on fully using the measures which will make possible an increase in agro-industrial efficiency—in other words, to achieve a larger sugar production with less (?milled) sugarcane.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] From here, we can reassure the party's leadership, our whole nation, and especially our dear Comrade Fidel, that there will not be anything or anyone who will be able to halt the

development of the sugar industry in the country. That is our great challenge for the future years. We are absolutely sure that you, just like all Cuban sugar technicians, will meet [the goal] and will triumph. [end recording]

The new ATAC executive committee was presented to the delegates. The committee will be responsible for directing the activities of the ATAC until its next Congress. Lauro Fanjun was nominated president of the executive committee.

At the same event, diplomas were given to those who have dedicated 20 and [words indistinct] years to the association. A special acknowledgement diploma was also given to Oscar Almazan del Olmo, who directed this organization for 10 years.

This has been a happy event in which the technical branches of the great sugar industry have been represented. Everything that was discussed and agreed upon had the objective of improving our sugar industry. The goal is to have a better sugar harvest next year.

At the request of a delegate from (?Villa Clara) Province, it was proposed that Santiago de Cuba host the next ATAC Congress.

Students Graduate From Soviet Schools
FL2911174688 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1513 GMT 29 Nov 88

[By [Lazaro Chan Macate]

[Text] Arturo Rodriguez, vice minister of higher education, said in a press conference that, in accordance with Soviet-Cuban cooperation, the USSR has graduated close to 12,000 Cuban professionals from 1962 to the present. He said that Cuba is currently expanding cooperation in the education sector in the USSR, especially in the area of scientific-technical research, electronics, robotics, mechanical construction, and micro-electronics.

Rodriguez stressed that Cuban students are studying in 42 Soviet cities and at this moment, due to the educational level attained by our country, the number of students sent to the USSR is decreasing. He said that 70 percent of the Cuban professionals graduating in the Soviet Union are engineers.

Ibero-American Conference on Education Opens
FL2411215488 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2044 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Simon Romero Lozano, secretary general of the Ibero-American Organization for Education, Science, and Culture [IOESC], emphasized at the opening of the IOESC ministerial meeting in Havana the need for tending to the young population—14- to 25-years of age—who have no education. [Word indistinct] that the meeting will have to show support for a (?closer) unity of action among the countries attending the conference and fight the negative consequences of the foreign debt.

Welcoming the visitors, Minister of Education Jose Ramon Fernandez said that without peace there cannot be education, science, and culture; thus, he called for a strengthening of the sense for social justice. He emphasized that the delegates to the Ibero-American Conference on Education will work jointly to find solutions to the current problems.

President Chissano Comments on Recent Visit
FL2911142288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano said in Maputo that, while he was in Cuba, not only did he receive medical treatment, but he also received fraternal solidarity.

The president of Mozambique paid a visit to our country during which he underwent a delicate surgery. Upon returning to his country, Chissano said that his stay in Cuba served once again as an opportunity to see up close the efforts of the Cuban people in the construction of the country and the achievements of their work.

First Hydrographic Boat Operational in Dec
FL2511161088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1522 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] As a salute to the 30th anniversary of the revolution's triumph, Cuba's first hydrographic boat will be finished in December. The boat was built at the production and repairs base of the Cuban Institute of Hydrography of the Revolutionary Navy.

Base Chief Jorge de Armas informed Radio Reloj that the boat is made of steel, is 14.5 meters long, and has removable modern equipment. He stated that the foundation is ready for the construction of a plastic lighthouse, which will also be built by the production and repairs base, next to the Oasis Hotel in Varadero.

The production and repairs base has also produced 21 plastic light buoys. This has saved the nation more than half a million pesos in revenue.

The institute's workers have also finished general repairs on a medium-size transport ship which will be assigned to the Soviet-Cuban hydrographic and marine charting project.

Investment Plans Include Matanzas Projects
FL2311151088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1118 GMT 23 Nov 88

[By Mena Rodriguez Pantoja]

[Text] The new Matanzas oil refinery, being built with the cooperation of the USSR, is part of an extensive investment program which includes the simultaneous

construction of several related projects that have been prioritized in the order in which they will become operational. Commitments have also been made to set up an electrical conductor that will supply energy to the generator units in Santa Cruz del Norte. Work has also begun on the "Amistad" pipeline between Matanzas and the refinery that is under construction in Cienfuegos.

The completion of docks 1 and 2 for ships that can hold up to 150,000 and 15,000-70,000 tons of cargo, respectively, is planned for December. This will coincide with the starting up of minimal operations at the oil refinery.

Nevertheless, setbacks in construction and assemblage tasks will prevent certain installations and the oil complex from being finished by the date established. It is expected that the work will be extended through June 1989.

As long as the plant is not operational, it will be necessary to bring the oil from the large cistern ships at Dock No 1 to other smaller ships at Dock No 2, said (Ernesto Mediohondo), chief of the Supply Department of the Investment Unit of the Basic Industry Ministry, Minbas.

Roberto Romero Otano, chief of the construction work force, said that after Commander in Chief Fidel Castro visited the oil projects in Matanzas last June, it was decided to create a contingent that can make up for the 3-month setback in the construction of the complex and promote its completion with quality.

If the production results from the construction workers is what is expected, the contingent will receive a banner and will be named Fourth PCC Congress at the completion of the projects that will allow minimal operations. The workers will then continue with the rest of the investment program to finish the supertanker base so that it can be operational by December 1990.

Council of State Institutes Jose Marti Medal

FL2911152488 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The Council of State of Cuba has instituted the Jose Marti, Column 1 combat medal. This award will be given to all combatants of the rebel Army who were members of this column during the national liberation war, regardless of the date they entered the service, even if they later joined another rebel column, or carried out another revolutionary mission.

The decree states that the commander in chief and the minister of the FAR are authorized to propose granting the award. The decoration can be granted posthumously.

Seminar on Use of Computers in Banks Begins

FL2311195088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] A seminar on the application of new technologies in Latin American savings banks began at the Palace of Conventions this morning. Hector Rodriguez Llompart, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister president of the National Bank of Cuba, was present. Representatives from Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Europe are participating.

The aim of the seminar is to learn about experiences of Latin American savings banks in their application of electronic computers in this type of banking.

The People's Savings Bank of Cuba presented its report in the application of this technology which is essential if one takes into account the broad network of service agencies this institution has. The introduction of new technologies not only changes work methods but also strengthens and increases cooperation with institutions from other countries.

The opening remarks were made by Osvaldo Fuentes, president of the People's Savings Bank of Cuba.

Seminar Ends

FL2511032088 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Dr Julio Escoto, executive secretary of the Dominican League of Savings and Loans Association, gave the closing speech at the Seminar on the Application of New Technologies in Latin American Savings Banks.

The Seminar on the Application of New Technologies in Latin American Savings Banks has been in session since the 25th [as heard] until today at the Palace of Conventions. The participants in the seminar established a set of recommendations regarding the introduction and development of computer technology in this field. Automation is a necessity for savings institutions, since it permits the growth of activities. It also allows for its clientele's growing demand for services to be met. The introduction of information systems in banking activities should be considered an investment which will reduce costs through an increase in productivity.

In matters of cooperation, an agreement was established between the banks of Spain and the People's Savings Bank of Cuba, in addition to those [as heard] offered by other Latin American institutions.

March Shows Supports for Anticrime Operations

FL2511161488 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1505 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Over 20,000 Ciego de Avila residents have participated in a march of combatant people in the provincial capital to express their total support to the operations conducted by the National Revolutionary Police and the Interior Ministry against criminal activities and antisocial individuals who disturb the people's peace.

The participants of the gigantic march, composed of students from every school and education center in the municipality and young workers representing work centers, passed by the centrally located Independencia Street chanting revolutionary slogans. As they went by the Jose Marti Park, the marchers, who also carried signs with anticrime inscriptions and in support of the revolution, expressed openly their unconditional support to the measures taken by the revolution. This show of support to the fight against crime illustrates once more the existing closeness between the police and the people, said First Lieutenant Alberto Lopez.

Haiti

Party Leader on Commemoration of 29 Nov

FL2911140388 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpts] (?We are heading for) the commemoration of 29 November, the 1st anniversary of the aborted elections in Haiti. [passage omitted]

The government has decreed 29 November a day of national mourning, in memory of the victims. [passage omitted]

We have already gotten diverse statements from political and union leaders on the commemoration of 29 November. Today, we will have you hear the statement of [party leader] Maurepas Auguste of the MDU [Movement for Democratic Unity].

[Begin recording, in progress] [Auguste] ...commemorate, I myself demand justice—not vengeance, justice. [switches to Creole] And I think that is what tomorrow's keyword should be—for all the Haitian people—justice, justice, justice, until justice is done. [passage omitted]

Some of the assassins have left. Take Regala for instance. He left by the front door. He is one of them. Do you think 29 November could have occurred without Namphy and Regala consenting? When there wasn't a single policeman in the streets? The truth is that the Haitian people were abandoned to the assassins on 29 November! That's where we have to start.

Now, Regala has left. I heard he rented his house to the Panamanian Embassy so that the house would not be uprooted; and now he is living the good life. Namphy is in the Dominican Republic—again, the good life. [passage omitted] [Remainder of recording, report in French]

[Reporter] You spoke of the complicity of the CNG [National Government Council] in the 29 November events. The Avril government has just made public the report from the investigating committee on 29 November. What is your interpretation of....

[Auguste, interrupting] Ah, friend. That report is bullshit. [preceding word in English] I realize this is a curse word, and I shouldn't say it over the radio—but I am saying it anyway. The report is bullshit, [preceding word in English] as is the report on Athis' death. I am awaiting the report on Volel's death, but I already know it is also going to be bullshit. [preceding word in English] [passage omitted]

Dont talk to me about those investigating committees. We have to start over. There must be new investigations, by new investigators, in all cases. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The National Unity Party for National Development [Parti de l'Unite Nationale Pour le Developpement Nationale] wonders about Lieutenant General Avril's intentions regarding the criminal acts committed against Haiti and the Haitian people—among other things, assassinations, violations, and the reinstatement of unscrupulous macoutes within the public administration. Nevertheless, the party appreciates the president's initiative to make 29 November a day of national mourning. [passage omitted]

Theodore's Position Noted

FL2611010888 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The PUCH, Unified Party of Haitian Communists, has also stated its position on the commemoration of 29 November. [passage omitted]

[Begin PUCH Secretary General Rene Theodore recording, in Creole] Well, as far as we're concerned, 29 November is arbitrariness at its utmost. It is the first time in the history of the world that an election is martyred. [passage omitted]

In the last analysis, 29 November put an end to the illusion that the problem of democracy in a country could be solved through the ballot—without establishing a relationship between forces that would allow the Haitian people themselves to oblige them [not further identified] to accept the people's democratic option, oblige them to accept the path to a democracy as defined by the population itself.

All the forces of arbitrariness were on the scene. All the forces of terror were present in Haiti. All continued to associate with the government that had protected them. All continued to get involved with foreigners, who were stirring things up inside Haiti and who were laying this trap for us. There was a [words indistinct] that caught many political sectors in Haiti, which led to (?any) political decision having to do with Haiti remaining a decision according to the gospel of the United States of America.

All these illusions too, were lost on, destroyed by, 29 November. This means that 29 November also marked a new determination among the masses to achieve a democracy according to a Haitian gospel. And this is why today, on this 29 November being commemorated, we think reflection should revolve around what democracy means, what democracy should mean in Haiti and to Haitians. And it is really necessary that there be a clear disassociation from all the terrorist sectors, which are linked to the sector composed of Haitian and foreign multimillionaires, a sector in the habit of (?coasting along on the Haitian people's efforts) and which was also protecting its interests on 29 November, against the interests of the masses. [passage omitted]

The government spoke of meditation, but said we needed an act of contrition—we had to see how cowardly we had been, and what we had failed to do that allowed 29 November to happen. The government asks us to say a mea culpa.

We say the Haitian people has no mea culpa whatsoever to say! We say that the revolutionary and democratic sectors in Haiti have no act of contrition to apologize for. The Haitians are not responsible for 29 November. The people who should say an act of contrition, a mea culpa, for 29 November do indeed exist—and we must find them!

We also feel, regarding 29 November, that those who knew what was going to happen and allowed it are cowardly. They should examine their consciences to the act of cowardice they commited which allowed 29 November to occur.

As far as we are concerned, we think the Haitian people should take to the streets on 29 November—peaceably. They should express themselves in the Port-au-Prince (?area) and all over the country. They should show their determination to (?find) those reponsible for the 29 November massacre (?out).

We also we think that (?the basis must be) justice. It is on the basis of absolute clarity as regards the 29 November events.... [changes thought] The matter is absolutely clear. We must find the guilty parties wherever they are. Only then can we restore the trust that people are asking to have in institutions capable of ensuring democracy in Haiti. [passage omitted]

Thus, we think this time the Haitian people themselves must show their commitment and determination, through a big demonstration. At the same time, the sectors claiming to be in favor of democracy in Haiti must this time agree to sit down together, to line up on a single speakers platform and speak out before the nation and before the entire world, to mark their commitment along with the Haitian masses, so that we can (?score) a definitive victory over arbitrariness—and also a victory over all the forms of foreign intervention that habitually occur in Haiti and that are getting our country into trouble, by pulling strings, and making us think according to their (?creed), a foreign (?creed), against the national interest. [end recording]

That was Rene Theodore of the PUCH.

Youth Murders Noted; 'Bloodbath' in Anse Rouge

FL2911132188 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Today is the 3d anniversary of the murder of three youths in Gonaives during an antigovernment demonstration. A mass in memory of these three victims was celebrated this morning. Here is the report from our correspondent (Fegerson Legros)

[(Legros), speaking in Creole] (?In Gonaives) today, 28 November, the young people organized a large demonstration to mark the 3d anniversary of the deaths of our three brothers (Makinson Michel), (Daniel Ismael), and (Jean Robert Cius), shot to death by murderers, by thugs.

There was a large mass at Immaculate Conception Church, which is located at La Providence Hospital in Gonaives. This mass was to have been celebrated at the big church, Saint Charles Borome. However, according to the young people, certain diocese priests refused to say the mass, claiming that the young people should have asked 3 months in advance. [passage omitted]

After the mass, the young people marched through Gonaives, singing and asking for liberation for Gonaives and freedom for Haiti. They went up and down many streets in Gonaives. [passage omitted]

The young people declared that the blood of their three young brothers had not been shed in vain. They said although that dictator [Duvalier] had left, as far as they were concerned they had not yet finished uprooting the macoutes. They said they want justice, regarding these macoutes, who are still abusing the Haitian people—repressing and beating them. [passage omitted]

The young people are going to hold a press conference this afternoon, at the (Shoogar) Club. The conference will revolve around the theme "Impact of a Dictatorial Government on Education."

Also, in Anse Rouge—specifically in (Pointe des Mangues)—there is a bloodbath going on right this minute. One person has been killed and many arrests are being made. According to reports, the people arrested are in bad shape. We will give more information on this matter in later newscasts.

This is (Fegerson Legros) in Gonaives for Radio Metropole.

Justice Minister Issues Memo on Striking

FL2811185888 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1700 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Memorandum issued by Justice Minister Gilbert Austin to representatives of the Department of the Public Prosecutor; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] In view of the increasingly frequent practice of calling for general strikes, so-called warning strikes, nationwide, the Ministry of Justices feels it is its duty to call to mind the following legal dispositions:

1. [Passage omitted]

2. It is obvious that these calls for general strikes, so-called warning strikes, aimed at paralyzing the nation's social, economic, and political activities, are in pursuit of political objectives—which confers on them a subversive character tending to negatively affect the nation's internal security. Because of this, they constitute crimes, foreseen and punished by Articles 78, 178, 238, and 258 of the penal code.

3. Employees and officials of public offices and agencies adhering to these calls to general strikes, so-called warning strikes, are intentionally violating the dispositions of Article 19 of the law governing civil servants and are liable to disciplinary sanctions.

All acts of banditry, looting, and violence perpetrated on the occasion of a general strike, and all prejudices caused other people will be attributable to the instigators of these strikes.

Consequently, the Ministry of Justice warns all those who, in contempt of the official regulations, incite to a general strike.

[Signed] Justice Minister Gilbert Austin

Minister Reshuffles Agriculture Ministry

FL2511233788 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] According to a memorandum dated 21 November 1988 and signed by Agriculture Minister Frederic Agenor, who is an agronomist, important measures have been taken. Certain Agriculture Ministry officials have been fired. According to Minister Agenor, these officials have been fired for behaving improperly, failing to show respect for their superiors, and disregarding civil service regulations.

The fired agronomists are: Antonio Aime, the ministry's director general; Robert Joseph, a veterinarian and the deputy director general; (Wilfrid Brise), director of the ODN, which is the Organization for the Development of Northern Haiti; and Gabriel St. Fleur, who is responsible for matters involving Japan.

Also mentioned was agronomist Gerard Michel, who is an adviser for plant production and who is currently acting as director general. The position of deputy general director is henceforth abolished. It no longer exists.

The division directors have (?become) assistants of the general director, with a view to better organizing the institution and also in order to make full use of their competency, says the memorandum.

Here is how the minister's cabinet is now constituted. There are now several agronomists in it, such as: Louis Blanchet, as principal adviser; Gerard Michel, as plant production adviser; Leon Agenor, as agronomical research adviser; Jean Bertrand as animal husbandry adviser; and Luc Dominique, as rural development adviser.

In connection with this same matter, the problem at Damien, the Association of Haitian Animal Husbandry and Agricultural Technicians, (ATEA), has issued a statement.

They say: We the Haitian Animal Husbandry and Agricultural Technicians, (ATEA), on the occasion of the incident that broke out among the bigshots at the Ministry of Agriculture, inform everyone in Haiti of our position.

While we are doing our best to work with the peasants—without tools or transportation, and unpaid—the bigshots sitting behind desks at Damien in air conditioning, who are big (?armchair) agricultural experts with big salaries, who are making big bucks, have shown that they are incapable of taking any serious measures on behalf of Haitian agriculture, fighting like that!

In order to rescue Haitian agriculture from the dire straits it is now in, (ATEA) recommends:

1. That, to begin with, the government take draconian measures and fire all these people, and certain other people too.

2. That the government form a three-member committee to direct all agricultural activity in Haiti.

3. That this committee be made up of, first of all, a serious agronomist; second, a serious agricultural technician; and third, a serious veterinary nurse.

According to the (ATEA) this is the solution that can keep the ministry alive and save Haiti's agriculture.

This press release, a copy of which was sent to us here at RTNH, is signed by the (ATEA).

Political Leader Returns, Makes Statement

FL2611004188 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Nicolas Estiverne [head of the New Orleans-based Party of the Moderate Republic], who was expelled from Haiti by the CNG [National Government Council], returned to Haiti yesterday, after the expulsion order was rescinded by the Avril government. Estiverne held a press conference this morning. However, we ourselves interviewed him yesterday, upon arrival. [passage omitted]

[Begin Estiverne recording, in Creole] [Passage omitted] I must tell you that I have certain information, which I am not going to reveal for the time being. I am going to wait for the elections. You are going to see a number of men.... [changes thought] A number of candidates are going to come forward to run in the elections—men who have already been candidates. These men participated in 29 November.

Two of them made a statement. They said if they saw they couldn't win the election, they would spoil it—they would use whatever means necessary to spoil the election. So I am just waiting for these two men to reappear, as candidates, so that I can turn them over to the Haitian people, so the Haitian people can have them arrested and tried for having participated in the 29 November events. [passage omitted]

I must say I have to, in a way, blame the Haitian people too. I always place blame wherever it belongs. I don't just blame the criminals. I blame the Haitian people a little too, for allowing Namphy to remain in power until 29 November. Instead of taking things in hand, the Haitian people refused to admit that it was dealing with a group of criminals.

On the other hand, there were so many crooked politicians, who were seeking favors from Namphy.... [changes thought] They tooled the people around [bafoue], lied to them, made them understand that Namphy was a serious person. Thus, these politicians are one of the reasons the people came to be massacred. That's the only thing I blame the Haitian people for. They didn't see clearly enough, before 29 November, to rid themselves of these crooks; and many of these crooks are going to reappear on the scene. I am waiting for them to reappear, so I can hand them over to the Haitian people so they can deal with them. [end recording]

Those were statements by Nicolas Estiverne upon returning to Haiti yesterday. Estiverne also told us that he is going to initiate proceedings before the Justice Ministry with a view to recovering his Haitian nationality, for as you know, he has an American passport.

Central Bank Authorized To Issue Currency

FL2311234988 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The Banque de la Republique d'Haiti has been authorized by government decree to issue a supplementary amount of national currency. It may issue currency up to an amount not to exceed 350 million gourdes.

The Banque de la Republic d'Haiti will take all necessary measures to maintain the amount of national currency in actual circulation within the limits of this ceiling (?and) in keeping with the real needs of banking operations and of the national economy.

Sugar Shortage Causes Plant Shutdown

FL2411001288 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The National Ice Plant, known as (Hakim's), shut down last Saturday [19 November] at around noon. Both the employees and the employer say the factory had to shut down because they cannot get sugar. Let's listen to a report on this matter.

[Unidentified reporter] This business of a big shortage of white sugar in Haiti is continuing to cause certain businesses (?a lot of trouble). Last Saturday, the National Ice Plant, which many people call simply (Hakim's), shut down; and now all the plant's employees have been forced into unemployment. The plant also makes cola. Even the employees in the section that makes Crystal [brand name] ice are affected. Let's listen to some of them.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] Of course we are affected, for we all constitute a single whole. We belong to the same union. When they suffer, we too suffer. We all suffer together.

[Reporter] The employer hasn't told you when the plant will reopen?

[Speaker] No, because he doesn't know why there is no sugar available. He doesn't know when he will be able to get any. He is watching to see what happens. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Reporter] Plant director (Eddy Hakim), explaining to us why he shut down the plant, also told us that the way the government purchasing agency habitually sells him white sugar had changed.

[Begin (Hakim) recording] When we went to buy sugar from the government purchasing agency as usual, we found that they cannot give us the amount of sugar we

need. We normally use between 400 and 500 sacks of sugar per week. For the time being, they can only give me 50 sacks per week, and I cannot work with only 50 sacks. So I shut down at noon. Today is Tuesday, and we still don't have any sugar. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Reporter] According to a number of plant managers, if this sugar problem continues, all products made with white sugar—such as mints, colas, candies, and other such things—are going to become more expensive; and there will be shortages, similar to the current cigarette crisis in Haiti.

Secret Recruiting of Canecutters Denounced

FL2611013988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Three racketeers—two Haitians and one foreigner—were in the courtyard of Saint Joseph Church on Monday, 21 November, hiring some 150 people to cut sugarcane in the Dominican Republic. These people recruited were packed like sardines into three buses to be taken to the Dominican Republic, after they were made to believe that they were going to get paid $10 per day. However, the people were never told where they were going to be taken.

The people realized that they were going to be taken to the Dominican Republic to cut sugarcane when the three men went to buy them different clothes. The people then ran away.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] There were two men from the Dominican Republic and a foreigner who dropped them off and went on, apparently to wait for them in Croix des Bouquets. [passage omitted] [end recording]

We learned that this recruiting was still going on yesterday in Croix des Bossales. [name as heard]

We remind listeners that peasants have been recruited all over Haiti for the past few weeks to be taken to cut sugarcane in the Dominican Republic.

For its part, the Ministry of Social Affairs reminds the public that in general, and the seasonal workers who are candidates to go work abroad cutting sugarcane in particular, that no agreement exists binding the Haitian Government to any government of any other country authorizing any recruiting operation in Haiti. This has not existed for 3 years now, says the Social Affairs Ministry press release.

Therefore—says the ministry—the ministry denounces and condemns all attempts to clandestinely recruit Haitian workers by Haitian or foreign agents who cannot guarantee job security and the protection of workers' rights. [passage omitted]

Detective Captured; Section Chiefs Denounced

FL2311133988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Report by Port-de-Paix correspondent Jean Wilson]

[Text] Peasants from Nan Foach, fourth communal section of Saint-Louis du Nord, Saturday captured a detective [attache] from Port-au-Prince who had come to hide at the house of a girlfriend he has in the area. The peasants said they had been watching this man, whose name is Jacques, for some time now. They say every time there's trouble in Port-au-Prince this man shows up in the area.

In an (?attache case) this detective brought with him, they found an automatic pistol with a silencer, a small two-pronged tool, and a (?ski) mask [youn mask pou figi mafia].

The peasants and section chief (Gabriel Cirian) took the detective and all these weapons to the military barracks in Saint-Louis du Nord that very Saturday.

Speaking of peasants, in the first rural section of Bassin Bleu, La Plate, 60 peasants have denounced the dishonest acts being committed in the area by section chief Paul Philogene. They say that not only does he act as judge, but that before giving a peasant justice, he must obtain money and livestock—such as sheep, goats, and so forth—from the peasant.

In a note dated 20 November, these peasants ask General Prosper Avril to replace this section chief with (Florian Derilus), a credible man from the area.

Also, 250 peasants from (La Croix Saint Joseph), the fourth communal section of Port-de-Paix, ask the general to replace section chief (Odernier Francois) with a man named (Jonas Leger).

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Prime Minister, Delegation Depart for Miami

FL2911202488 Bridgetown CANA in English 1823 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, Nov 29, CANA—Prime Minister James Mitchell left home on Tuesday at the head of the St Vincent and the Grenadines delegation to the annual Miami conference on the Caribbean basin.

Other members of the four-man delegation are minister of state in the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture, Herbie Young, Claude Leach, the manager of the country's development corporation and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) high commissioner in London, Vincentian Dirck Gunn who joins the delegation in Miami.

Mitchell, the current chairman of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States will chair the conference session on the electronic industry.

A Government Information Service (GIS) release issued here said Mitchell will take the opportunity while at the conference to hold discussions with his Trinidad and Tobago counterpart, Prime Minister A.N.R.Robinson, as well as with the European Economic Community's (EEC) delegate to the conference, Dr. Erich.

With Wersing, Mitchell will discuss the proposed airport for the Grenadine island of Bequita and the proposed advanced-level college for St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Miami conference deals with trade, aid and investment matters in the Caribbean and Central America.

Trinidad and Tobago

Ruling Party Retains Control of Assembly

FL2911163388 Bridgetown CANA in English
0213 GMT 29 Nov 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Scarborough, Tobago, Nov 28, CANA—The ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) retained their control of the Tobago House of Assembly in elections Monday night when they won 10 of the 11 declared districts in the 12-seat Assembly, the Elections and Boundaries Commission reported.

The NAR were leading by a wide margin in the final district which they were expected to win and return the tally to the 11-1 position of the last elections.

The parliamentary opposition People's National Movement (PNM) regained the Buccoo-Lambeau District which they had originally held.

Both parties claimed morale victories as final results came in.

NAR leader and Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson told CANA: "I think this will certainly boost our stocks both nationally and internationally and my own feeling is that we have nowhere but up to go from here."

Opposition leader Patrick Manning also claimed gains from the elections.

"Even if we were not able to win seats, clearly the PNM is much stronger in Tobago now," he told CANA.

Forty five percent of the registered voters (31,210) went to the polls, an historic low, the commission reported.

Landslide Victory

FL2911184988 Bridgetown CANA in English
1639 GMT 29 Nov 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Scarborough, Tobago, Nov 29, CANA—The National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) on Tuesday was celebrating another landslide win in local government election in this scenic Caribbean island.

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, who was born here, said the NAR's second consecutive 11-1 seat win over the People's National Movement [PNM] Tobagonians supported his government's "difficult" economic programme.

The Monday poll for the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), set up eight years ago to run the island, took place against the backdrop of a cutback on public spending in the twin-island republic and pland to sharply reduce the public service, largely by voluntary retirements.

"They have given solid support to the NAR government which has been carrying through a very difficult programme, it's true, but which has resulted in very great hardships on the populations," Robinson commented on the THA's third poll.

"But I think they understand basically that its for the good of the nation.

"I think this will certainly boost our stocks both nationally and internationally and my own feeling is that we have nowhere but up to go from here so that this is a very, very heartening response from the Tobago electorate."

PNM leader Patrick Manning said his party had found a well thought out campaign which had found many willing ears on Trinidad's sister island.

"You are seeing the beginning of a proper reorganisation of the PNM taking place," Manning told CANA.

"I think the campaign has strengthened the PNM... the PNM is much stronger in Tobago today...for a number of reasons, it has had a great psychological effect."

"Our campaign strategy was very well thought through-...but it was clearly not enough to make the changes that we would have liked to see...so be it," Manning said.

The lone independent candidate, Morgan Pulson, took only 73 votes in the Belle Garden/Goodwood constituency, retained by THA chairman, Dr. Jeff Davidson with a clear 874 majority over the PNM's 375 votes.

However, the PNM's lone assemblyman, William McKenzie, kept his seat with 825 votes to the NAR's candidates 742 in the Buccoo/Lambeau constituency.

The voter turnout was the lowest in the eight year history of the assembly—46.6 per cent of the 31,210 registered voters turned up to cast a ballot.

In the 1984 elections, voters turnout had been 70.2 per cent while 66.2 per cent of the electorate came out to vote in 1980 on the 116 square mile holiday resort.

The NAR took 64 per cent of the vote Monday leaving the PNM, which moved from a four seat to a one seat hold between 1980 and 1984, with the remaining 36 per cent.

Vote Termed 'Inconclusive'

FL2911205788 Bridgetown CANA in English 1955 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Nov 29, CANA—The Trinidad EXPRESS newspaper on Tuesday described the vote in Monday's Tobago House of Assembly (THA) as 'inconclusive.'

In an editorial entitled "Three in a Row, Mr Robinson," the paper said that both the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) and the opposition People's National Movement (PNM) needed to analyse the results.

The NAR kept its 11 seats leaving the PNM with its lone seat in the 12-seat, eight-year-old Assembly following the lowest ever voter turnout for Assembly elections.

The EXPRESS said the ruling party needed to analyse whether the low turnout was a reflection of the certainty of Tobagonians that Robinson's party would win or due to a lack of enthusiasm over the NAR's performance for eight years in the Assembly and 23 months in central government.

The PNM, the paper said, should try to work out why a low turnout, which traditionally favours the PNM and its diehard supporters, did not come through this time.

"Mr. Robinson has not lost anything and the People's National Movement has held on to the one seat it won in 1984 and both have some reason to be guardedly cheerful this morning," the paper said.

"Mr. Robinson's campaign strategy was to promote the elections as being national in scope and, from the perception, the ruling party has done well."

The paper said, however, that the government had the same problems to deal with as before the election—getting the economy moving, creating jobs, and restoring confidence in investors and the man in the street.

Castro's Arrival in Mexico Confirmed 28 Nov
FL2811233888 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2301 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 28 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Guillermo Jimenez Morales, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, reported today that, up to now, six chiefs of state have confirmed their attendance to the ceremony in which Carlos Salinas de Gortari will assume power as constitutional president of the United Mexican States for the 1988-94 period. [passage omitted]

He explained that the presidents who have already confirmed their attendance are: Raul Alfonsin from Argentina, Manuel Esquivel from Belize, Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo from Guatemala, Jose Azcona Hoyo from Honduras, Virgilio Barco from Colombia, and Nicaraguan President Ortega who arrived last Saturday. Regarding Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruiz, he said the Foreign Secretariat will confirm his arrival this afternoon. [passage omitted]

De la Madrid Delivers Farewell Address
PA3011043088 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0301 GMT 30 Nov 88

["Farewell" address to the nation by President Miguel de la Madrid; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: Today, and still as president of the Republic, I wish to address you for the last time and make a few comments.

During my 6 years in office, I always tried to have a permanent dialogue with the people. At all times, I tried to be close to you, the people I had the honor to govern during these difficult years for Mexico.

I am quite aware that the years we shared called for constant efforts and sacrifice that, unfortunately, were not always properly compensated, at least in the short term. Year after year, the domestic and foreign conditions, of which we are all aware, demanded new and greater challenges. However, encouraging and important achievements were made during these years. The signs of changes in the various areas of national life are in plain view. Together, we carried out the changes our economic and political structures needed to put Mexico on the path toward a stronger and egalitarian society.

Politically, we have made much progress. We are living and continue to live in a free and more democratic country. In the economic area, we promoted changes in our structures aimed at establishing a firm basis for a more solid, just, and equitable growth.

In the social area, we took special care in attending to the demands for food, health, social assistance, education, housing, and ecology. However, we must admit that because of the constant growth of demands and needs, the social debt has not been canceled. I believe this debt continues to be Mexico's main challenge.

The work done by my government was mainly aimed at overcoming the serious problems confronted by the country and to advance along the path of development with absolute respect for the people's rights and institutions.

The Mexican Constitution, the essence of our national plan, and the laws as established in our Constitution were my constant guides. My sole commitment was to rule for all the Mexicans, always respecting them and protecting peace, freedom, and democracy.

We achieved important goals and made huge changes. The most important goal we, the Mexican people, achieved was to create in the people a willingness to change. We confronted the situation and undertook the actions that were best for Mexico, not only for the short term, but looking toward the future. We reaffirmed our strength as a nation. I have said this before, and reiterate it today: What we achieved is the result of the work done by all of us; it is the result of the work done by a great society, a great people. We are not and we shall never be a defeated nation; we are a country with resources and full of values. Mexico continues to move forward as a viable and sovereign nation.

I wish to honor something, a special recognition of the patriotism of the majority of the people who compose our society. The heaviest burden of the crisis has fallen on their shoulders, and in a great display of love for Mexico, they have known enough to confront the current times with strength and courage.

I thank the workers for the mature and responsible way in which they behaved throughout these years of crises. I thank them for their tireless struggle to safeguard sources of employment and protect real salaries, taking into consideration the country's true economic situation.

I thank the peasants for their daily efforts. They always worked on and cultivated their land, making great efforts to increase our food supplies, decrease agricultural imports, and produce a favorable agricultural trade balance.

I thank the middle class, and I acknowledge its hard work, its ambition to make progress and to grow more. I acknowledge that they overcame attitudes of discouragement and frustration. The middle-class people did this with imagination and talent. They have been able to overcome a serious economic crisis.

I thank nationalist businessmen, the majority, for their trust and efforts to safeguard production centers and sources of employment and promote the country's growth by investing their capital and adapting themselves to profound structural changes that appeared very difficult at first. There were serious doubts as to whether or not businessmen were going to be able to face these structural changes. They were able, and this a sign of the country's vitality.

I also want to acknowledge, of course, the media, those who inform, guide, and help in the construction of an increasingly better informed, critical, and participating people.

I also want to thank public employees for their tireless efforts for the well-being of the fatherland, for working more for less, and for performing, most of them, in an honest and efficient way.

I also want to thank our Armed Forces, which are a source of pride and a bulwark of sovereignty, for their loyalty and patriotism in the defense of the Republic's peace, institutions, and sovereignty. I want to thank and acknowledge the Army, Air Force, and Navy for their cooperation and solidarity with the people in situations of national emergencies caused by natural disasters and for their endless struggle against drug trafficking.

I thank my country's intellectuals and artists, scientists and researchers for their invaluable contribution in transmitting and creating a free and nationalistic culture, a modern culture.

I also acknowledge the contributions by political parties and social organizations to expand our liberties and strengthen a vigorous exercise of democracy; I thank them for that.

I thank the women of Mexico for their growing and enthusiastic participation in all sectors of the nation's life, for the creative push they have given and are giving to the task of renovation.

I appreciate the vigor and energy of the young, and I encourage them to assume with responsibility their share of the efforts necessary to design and build a better future. I thank them for their firm and essential faith in Mexico's future.

I acknowledge the honesty and convictions of my political adversaries. I realize we all have the same purpose: a better Mexico. We have differences regarding methods and strategies, but I have never had any doubt about their patriotism.

The wise verdict of Mexico will suitably pass judgment on the work that has been carried out in the past 6 years. Acknowledging the efforts made by all my fellow countrymen, I am characterizing this period as a great effort of resistance and renewal.

I want to say again that being the president of the Mexican people has been the most honorable responsibility that I have ever had and could have ever. Soon I will rejoin life as a common citizen, an honorable title. I will rejoin society committed to the decision of giving the country my best, from another position, from another role, no longer a political leader. I will continue loving and respecting Mexico's institutions.

I conclude my period as constitutional president of Mexico with firm and well-founded optimism regarding the future of our country, because I can see the strength, the tenacity, and the creativity of the Mexican people

Mexico is great and it has a great future.

I call upon my fellow citizens to reject all feelings of stagnation and defeat and not to lose faith; times ahead will be better, and we shall make them better. I call on you to reject petty divisionism and for all of us to work for the benefit of Mexico.

As a citizen and as president of the Republic, I appreciate the demonstration of solidarity, affection, and understanding that I have found in the great majority of Mexicans when traveling in our country. They have been a permanent source of help and support during my administration. The example of Mexico's great people has been my guide and my strength.

I end my term with the tranquillity and satisfaction of knowing that I fulfilled my work to the best of my ability. I am fully aware of having served the Mexican people, to whom I shall be eternally grateful for the confidence they placed in me—the people of Mexico whom I love more because now I know them better.

On 1 December, following the decision of the majority of Mexican citizens, Mexico will have a new head of state and government. It is our duty to respect and support him, and back him in bearing the important responsibilities of his post. I am sure that Carlos Salinas de Gortari is a great Mexican—with talent, with willpower, and with the patriotism our country requires. He has my loyalty from 1 December.

Fellow citizens: This is not Miguel de la Madrid's farewell. It is the farewell of a Mexican president at the end of his term of office. Miguel de la Madrid stays in Mexico.

Reviews Term, Achievements

PA2911230088 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Nov 88 pp 1-a, 10-a, 11-a, 12-a.

[Part I of interview with President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado by EXCELSIOR Director Regino Diaz Redondo at the presidential residence in Mexico City on 24 November; quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Diaz] What would you say is your greatest achievement in the past 6 years of your administration?

[De la Madrid] Preserving the country's independence and sovereignty, maintaining a climate of basic social peace, not only maintaining the Mexicans' freedoms, but also expanding them, not only maintaining and strengthening the institutions of the Republic but also renewing them. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] Do you think you have harmed many people in the country because of the economic measures you adopted, which while important, seemed to have harmed most of the people?

[De la Madrid] The economic situation certainly has harmed most of us; however, I am fully convinced that if these economic policies had not been implemented, the harm would have been greater.

"The center of the entire economic policy was to preserve the productive plant and jobs. We achieved that. I agree: We did not foster a great expansion of the productive plant, and public and private investments were low. Although jobs were created, as shown in diverse statistics, we did not create a sufficient number of jobs." [passage omitted]

[Diaz] Is a good pluralism process taking place—for example, in the Chamber of Deputies as a result of the elections? Is there a lack of maturity or is this an attempt to simply oppose the government instead of trying to introduce an ideological program different from the PRI's? Could this be a desire to break the system without having grounds for it?

[De la Madrid] I feel there is some immaturity. However, I think there are elements to overcome this situation: good faith and political talent, practicing the art of negotiations, and especially the art of political realism.

"I do think all Mexicans want high-minded debates and to avoid disgraceful scenes. We want a debate of the country's major problems at Congress. We want maturity to define consensus and disagreement. In cases of consensus, we work together; in cases of disagreement, we continue debating, discussing, and striving for our ideas."

[Diaz] Do you think there is a danger of political repression if no progress is made within the high-minded dialogue?

[De la Madrid] Yes. I believe any political system, as I said, does not have an indefinite linear progress. There are advances and setbacks. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] However, in this country, who would stand to win? Would it be the military-like ultraright—not meaning the Mexican Armed Forces—or would it be the recalcitrant left? I could not cite an example, but some leftist regimes have seized power through a revolution. In this case, which one would be closest to taking power if violence broke out in the country: one or the other side?

[De la Madrid] Because of its internal and external composition, I think the ultra-right forces, with foreign intervention, would be the most likely to win.

[Diaz] Mr President, to what extent is Mexico's political system hurt?

[De la Madrid] I do not think it is hurt; I think the system is very firm and solid. The past 6 years of crisis have proved it. Not every system resists the challenges we Mexicans have had in recent years.

"I feel the system is intact. I feel it is evolving and changing in the discussions and debates. However, I do not see the system itself changing. I think nobody wants to change the Republican system." [passage omitted]

[Diaz] Did the results of the 6 June elections surprise you?

[De la Madrid] Yes. I thought the PRI votes would be lower but not that low. I think PRI and the opposition were surprised. We still do not know what to do with that new situation. There is still some clumsiness in handling politics. There are still a few inept politicians ["pataratos"] who still do not know how to move, lead, or act. This is a learning process, I think.

"I trust that once a certain adjustment period is over, we will enter a phase of political civil struggle with political civility. Civility is a part of politics in the sense politics is the art of overcoming a conflict through peaceful means. I think this is what will happen." [passage omitted]

[Diaz] What is your theory for understanding the results of the last presidential elections? What do you think is the cause for the results and for the surprising way in which they were obtained?

[De la Madrid] I see essentially two factors. First, there is social restlessness in the country, which is natural and very understandable. The restlessness originates in 7 years of economic crisis. Second, PRI has certain operational inadequacies.

"The opposition parties took good advantage of those insufficiencies, especially the National Democratic Front, which had considerable advantage over the National Action Party [PAN]." [passage omitted]

[Diaz] Are you happy with the way in which the presidential candidate—now the president-elect—was elected?

[De la Madrid] I think so. The elections corresponded to our political culture and current Mexican political development. I thought the result was very good; after all, a process is judged by its results. I am very happy with the election of Carlos Salinas de Gortari, consequently, the electoral process was a good one.

[Diaz] In my opinion, we have advanced in the way we elect our president. There were significant consultations. There is, however, a very essential group of the country's intelligentsia that believes the election and public presentation of the six PRI candidates was a bit cruel for the other five candidates and this has left many people resentful. Do you think that is true, and do you think the same thing should happen in the future?

[De la Madrid] There has always been a certain competitiveness among the so-called presidential candidates or possible candidates within PRI. That competitiveness has always existed, and there have always been currents within PRI that sympathize with one or another candidate.

"It seems to me, of course, that when a decision is made, there are always people who feel disappointed and upset. However, our party has always been known to maintain its basic unity; despite the political struggle that does exist, unity and discipline has always prevailed within PRI, as it should in any strong, majority party. A party cannot exist without discipline.

"I admit there could still be some small wounds, but they will heal." [passage omitted]

[Diaz] How do you describe the Cuauhtemoc Cardenas phenomenon and the reappearance of a strong left, which up until now had gone to the polls very divided? The reappearance was truly surprising. What do you think is the cause for that phenomenon?

[De la Madrid] I am not sure to what extent the people who voted against PRI were convinced by the thesis of the so-called leftist parties or to what extent they voted out of restlessness or because of PRI's operational inadequacies.

"I recognize a populist reaction to our revolutionary renewal in Cuauhtemoc Cardenas' position."

[Diaz] That is very important. Let us talk about PAN now. What is PAN's current role? Does it represent a third political force in the country? However, from the very beginning, one could see there was internal division between the traditional PAN members and the neo-PAN members. Has that division resulted in a loss of power by the right?

[De la Madrid] PAN remained stationary in the last elections; the votes for PAN did not increase in the 6 July elections.

"I believe PAN is experiencing a very interesting internal struggle between its traditional roots, which we could say are similar to the ideas of Christian Democracy, and the neoliberal capitalists, who would like to copy the U.S. system as much as possible. The two contradict each other. We must wait and see the result of that struggle."

[Diaz] There are various trends within the PRI. There are what many people call dinosaurs. Are internal divisions so serious that some people may place their own interests above the party's general ideology?

[De la Madrid] I do not see deep divisions within the party; I see a diversity of opinions, different interests, some of which are contradictory. However, I believe PRI will continue for a long time to fulfill its function, which among other things is to serve as a mechanism for a great national negotiation among the country's majority groups. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] What fundamental vices, if any, must be eliminated within PRI?

[De la Madrid] Any social organization has its virtues and defects. What really counts is which aspect—virtues or defects—is predominant. Although I must admit we have defects, I believe they are surpassed by virtues.

"The main thing is that the party has been a nucleus capable of comprising the majority of the Mexican population through a great national negotiation that has made it possible to pursue the nation's highest goals, reasonably balancing the interests of groups, sectors, classes, and regions. I believe PRI continues to preserve this virtue, and I do not foresee any other organization as an alternative. I do believe the party's operation should be improved in aspects such as strengthening its sectors, its territorial organization, intensifying ideological campaigns, and social work. [passage omitted]

[Diaz) Mr President, what did you feel when your speech was interrupted [on 1 September]? Also, what do you think about the presence of several heads of state and government at the inauguration ceremony, which I consider a positive change, because fortunately we renovate ourselves every 6 years?

[De la Madrid] What occurred on 1 September did not surprise me, because it had been announced several days before. I was prepared for whatever could happen; therefore, I was not surprised. However, what did bother me was that it showed disrespect for the Chamber of Deputies, the Congress of the Union, because such an action degrades the quality of our political life.

"I believe this action occurred because many of those who participated in this farce are still influenced by the techniques used in student assemblies and thought the Congress was a student assembly. Obviously, they discolored the ceremony by interrupting it, and although they did not cause any real problem, it caused a bad impression on the public."

[Diaz] What did you feel as a human being, not as the president? What were your feelings as a human being at that moment?

[De la Madrid] I felt sorry.

[Diaz] Sorry for whom?

[De la Madrid] For them. I felt sorry for them because they have not realized the opportunity offered to all Mexicans to improve our democratic life. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] What about the second question Mr President?

[De la Madrid] I believe the presence of several heads of state and government at the inauguration ceremony on 1 December reflects a tendency that exists in most countries. [passage omitted]

Economic Efforts Cited

PA3011013588 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Nov 88 pp 1, 10-A, 11-A

[Part II of interview with President Miguel de la Madrid by EXCELSIOR Director Regino Diaz Redondo at the presidential residence in Mexico City on 24 November; quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Diaz] It is said that if there had been a suspension of foreign debt payments or a moratorium, we could have allocated a greater amount of money to the social sector to help the people, to give them housing, food, public services, more goods, and better living conditions. Nevertheless, your administration has continued its policy from the start, that of servicing the debt.

[De la Madrid] Yes, I hear that view a lot, but I think it is inaccurate.

"First, you have to see what has occurred to the countries that have adopted unilateral measures on servicing the debt. They are worse off than we are, and they have admitted that such measures were a mistake. The suspension of the debt service would have led to an international economic conflict and would have affected sectors in which we have had an advantage these past years, such as the increase in exports, the necessary and essential imports for the functioning of the economy, and the doubling of the annual number of tourists.

"I knew from the beginning that if I took such a populist measure, which is theoretically progressive, our popularity would not last very long. Above all, I would have seriously harmed the Mexican people in the short- and long-term. I have always tried to protect not only the short-term interests but also the nation's future credit.

"I think Mexico's credit standing internationally among the debtor countries is one of the highest in the world. I think the country is in a better condition to proceed with the renegotiation of the debt to lower the debt service or even to decrease it in absolute terms because of the country's great prestige as a result of its wise management of the economy. In other words, I chose realism over populism."

[Diaz] But how high is the debt?

[De la Madrid] A little over $100 billion.

[Diaz] How much do we pay to service the debt each month?

[De la Madrid] We pay close to $12 or $13 billion annually.

[Diaz] How can we change this? When are the creditors going to realize this cannot be done? What do you propose?

[De la Madrid] I think they are already realizing this. If you see the positions of foreign governments and international organizations, you will see there is recognition that new formulas must be sought to lower the servicing of the debt of the developing countries to permit them to recover growth, because, as I have said, a dead client, a client who is totally bankrupt, is a client who will not pay. [passage omitted]

"I think we are going to progress in the coming months and years. However, I do want to warn you we cannot expect miracles. The path will have to be gradual. We will have to continue making great efforts. We will have to continue building a more competitive and productive economy. Let us not hope the solution to our problems will be the cancellation of the debt. There is no other solution but to work, save, and invest. This is the solution for Mexico's economic problems."

[Diaz] But will we reduce the debt service?

[De la Madrid] I think we must negotiate, as President-elect Salinas de Gortari has already announced, to seek negotiated solutions—not ones of conflict or confrontation—to reduce the servicing of the debt and to be able to undertake a policy of gradual recovery of economic growth. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] How can we explain piling up a foreign debt of between $110 and $120 billion? What happened to us?

[De la Madrid] Both debtors and creditors made a mistake.

[Diaz] In what proportions?

[De la Madrid] Half and half. In a debt relationship, one side makes a loan and the other requests it.

"I believe we made general mistakes, but not ones made in bad faith. I believe an increase in petroleum prices flooded the financial system with petrodollars; in turn, the system made massive loans to developing countries, which saw in this a great opportunity to take a leap forward and accepted the debts; many of them used those loans wisely. In general, I believe Mexico used its loans wisely because we have built petroleum, petrochemical, and power plants and granted credit to the countryside for housing projects. The foreign debt has not disappeared; there is evidence of it. It has increased our assets.

"However, as petroleum prices dropped, so did credit to Mexico. We were no longer collecting revenues from petroleum exports and receiving new credits; the crisis

had started. This crisis, I must note, is not exclusive to Mexico but shared by a majority of Latin American countries and developing countries. Mexico was not the only country that erred; bankers are now admitting they share the blame for failing to foresee future circumstances that could lead us to the situation we are currently enduring. [passage omitted]

"Mexico, which always had a need to grow, increased its production capacity, and created jobs, and saw an opportunity and seized it. This is why I maintain we should not label our foreign indebtedness as an overall process of bad faith. It was an overall mistake."

[Diaz] How much does Mexico have in reserves?

[De la Madrid] The Bank of Mexico has not told me how much but did tell me it has enough.

[Diaz] But Mr President, why do you say there are enough reserves but do not quote a figure?

[De la Madrid] Because any country that respects itself, any central bank banker that respects himself does not quote reserves figures each day because reserves experience constant ups and downs. Furthermore, those figures are traditionally considered to be confidential; we should reveal them now and then, but not publish them every day.

[Diaz] This is not an ordinary everyday interview, Mr President. (laughter)

[De la Madrid] But I respect the Central Bank's legitimate secrets.

[Diaz] Mr President, has there been a flight of capital in the past 3 months?

[De la Madrid] We have actually seen a significant increase in imports. I feel this is an early sign of recovery. We have also had prepayments of the foreign debt. To a lesser extent, there have been short-term money transfers by people nervous over the change in government. They are waiting to see what Salinas has to say on 1 December, who he will appoint to his cabinet, and what his programs will be. There are Mexicans who love their wallets more than their fatherland. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] What sacrifices has the Economic Solidarity Pact, which has evidently yielded results—at least we feel it has—brought about? How long could it last? How much can the economy grow within the Economic Solidarity Pact?

[De la Madrid] I believe the pact has fulfilled its main mission of warding off the threat of hyperinflation and decreasing inflation in an spectacular fashion. From this standpoint, the pact has been very successful, surprisingly successful to all, even to the president of the Republic.

"I believe we are on the correct path, because our experience shows we cannot attain a sustained and firm development with high inflation and that inflation brings about socially detrimental effects.

"In other words, I believe that in fighting inflation, we have established better bases for recovering growth." [passage omitted]

[Diaz] Do you support the continuation of this pact?

[De la Madrid] I support the idea of concerted efforts. I think the experience of the pact has shown that the concerted efforts of peasants, workers, government, and businessmen have been successful.

"At this time, I do not want to give an opinion on the future, because I am very respectful of the 6-year terms. However, in general, I believe Mexican society is convinced the path of concerted economic efforts is not only a solution to fight inflation but also to set other development goals." [passage omitted]

[Diaz] What is the difference between what you planned to do economically when you took office and what you have achieved at this time? How far did you get?

[De la Madrid] I believe I was unable to lower inflation with the desired speed. We were unable to achieve recovery at the pace we would have wished; in that aspect, there was dissatisfaction about the fulfillment of goals. However, I think we have progressed much in what we had envisioned concerning the structural changes in the economy, government reorganization, trade opening, and decentralization. In other words, the results are much better in the long-term measures than in the short-term measures. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] What is happening to the petroleum prices? How much maneuvering room do we have to sell? How much have we not earned or how much have we lost in the last 2 or 3 months?

[De la Madrid] Petroleum prices are being affected by a very worrisome downward trend. We do not know what will happen in the next few months. OPEC has lost its internal discipline. I hope sooner or later, good sense will return and prices will be stabilized at reasonable levels. Those reasonable levels will not be high in the short term—from here to the end of next year.

"I think we must make conservative estimates about the petroleum prices in the next 14 or 15 months.

"We have lost money, but we are now in a position in which petroleum is no longer as important in our foreign exchange revenue. At the end of 1982, petroleum exports represented more than 70 - 75 percent of that revenue; now they represent approximately 30 percent, because of the drop in prices and because of the important effects of the diversification and growth of the nonpetroleum exports.

"Therefore, we have won in that aspect of the structure of Mexico's foreign trade." [passage omitted]

[Diaz] Is the fiscal deficit manageable at this time?

[De la Madrid] I believe so. The overall fiscal deficit has been manageable. We have to continue reducing it by continuing to have a primary surplus. I think this is the solution that must be adopted; we will have to continue handling the development of public finances with extreme care. [passage omitted]

[Diaz] What is the central aim of your economic policy?

[De la Madrid] To recover the ability to grow and create jobs, along with social well-being. I had to take measures to reorganize the economy, and I had to introduce structural changes.

"I believe that even though I do not leave the task completed, at the least I achieved good progress."

El Salvador

Army's Involvement in 'Death Squads' Denied

PA2911000588 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Report by Roberto Represa]

[Text] Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, commander of the Army's 3d Brigade in San Miguel, has stated that the Armed Forces is not involved in death squad actions and that such actions are contrary to the institution's regulations. Vargas was referring specifically to the murder of three peasants in Morazan, of which the Army is being accused:

[Begin recording] Our values and the values of the system we defend do not allow us to execute, kidnap, or steal. The system states we are to comply with our laws and let the responsible institutions determine guilt or innocence. We cannot be judge and jury in such situations. [end recording]

The most recent case for which the Army is being blamed is the murder of three peasants in Yamabal Canton, Morazan, on 12 November. Vargas denied Armed Forces complicity in these murders and stated that humanitarian organizations must investigate in cases of this nature so they can present evidence and accuse a specific sector. He added that he has evidence the Army was not present in Yamabal Canton on the day of the triple murder:

[Begin recording] I directly accuse the FMLN and tell the humanitarian organizations that are accusing the Armed Forces to investigate the FMLN. The humanitarian organizations must not accept dialectic conclusions such as the ones made by the criminal Joaquin Villalobos, who said we executed and [words indistinct]. They are not God. They talk as if the world belonged to them. There are laws and a legal framework in this country. Our system has a legal framework, and we have to base ourselves on it. There are humanitarian organizations that have become corrupt and have become accomplices of the FMLN's murder; they remain silent and do not defend justice, laws, and principles. Regarding this case, I accuse the FMLN of these deaths. We have evidence the FMLN is responsible for the acts presently being reported in the northwestern zone. [end recording]

Col Vargas also criticized the work done by some humanitarian orgnizations and said they use human rights as an excuse to protect sectors that share their ideology.

Recent Rebel Military Activities Reported

PA2811125988 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 2300 GMT on 27 November carries a 9-minute report on FMLN military actions carried out "this past week."

The report begins by saying the FMLN conducted 11 successful guerrilla ambushes in La Paz, San Vicente, Santa Ana, Usulutan, Cabanas, and Chalatenango Departments, resulting in 110 casualties. Farabundo Marti continues: "As for casualties inflicted on elite battalions, we inflicted 11 on the Atlacatl Battalion in Chalatenango, including a sergeant. As for Army vehicles, a total of 10 military trucks were completely destroyed."

The report describes the weapons and war equipment confiscated from Army troops during the last week: "We have recovered the following war materiel: 4 G-3A3 rifles, an M-16A1 rifle, [word indistinct], a .22-caliber rifle, 6 M-1 carbines, 2 22-mm revolvers, 2 .22-caliber pistols, 4 .38-caliber revolvers, 2 9-mm pistols, and 10 cartridge clips for M-1 carbines. We have also recovered the following: cartridge clips for G-3A3 rifles, a PRC-77 radio, 7 [word indistinct], 7 military belts, 5 complete uniforms, 500 cartridges for M-1 carbines, and 300 7.62-mm cartridges."

As for attacks on the electric power system, the FMLN claims to have "sabotaged a total of 54 pylons, 19 transformers, 4 electric towers, and an electric substation in (Jocolo), Morazan Department."

Regarding attacks on the government's economic infrastructure, the FMLN claims that "we have destroyed a coffee processing plant called (Tepeyac); three ANTEL [National Administration for Communications] offices; a customs office in Chalatenango Department; three gasoline stations; a farm belonging to [words indistinct] in San Miguel Department; a spare parts store, where we caused 390,000 colons in losses, in San Miguel Department; five government vehicles in (Mac Motor) shop in San Salvador; and four manzanas of cotton."

As for attacks on local "enemy" offices, the Farabundo Marti claims to have carried out the following actions: "We sabotaged three mayor's offices—one in Colon, La Libertad Department; one in (Coyolito), Chalatenango Department; and the third in Santa Clara, San Vicente Department. In addition, we sabotaged the civil defense barracks in Colon."

The report adds that "we carried out three successful maneuvers conducted by new rebel forces. Our maneuvers were held in the Anastacio Aquino paracentral front and one of them was called: 'Against hunger and repression, the people's rebellion and armed struggle is the answer.' This maneuver included incursions into nine villages, five in La Paz Department and four in San Vicente Department. In addition, we inflicted a total of 33 casualties during this successful maneuver." The report continues, "the other two maneuvers were conducted in Chalatenango Department and they were called: 'Chalatenango workers advance toward victory' and 'Salute to the 8th anniversary of the assassination of FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front] comrades on 27 November 1980.' During these two maneuvers we inflicted 28 casualties on the enemy."

Battle Reports Aired

PA2911213188 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 29 November carries several FMLN battle reports.

The first war report was sent by the Feliciano Ama Western Front and reveals that "at 0600 on 28 November, a guerrilla unit ambushed a military convoy of six trucks carrying 2d Infantry Brigade troops from Santa Ana to Metapan." The information adds that the convoy was ambushed near the turnoff to Casitas, Texistepeque Jurisdiction, Santa Ana, and that "the enemy sustained 10 casualties." Furthermore, "the enemy realized its disadvantage and sent an O-2 push-and-pull airplane to fire rockets around the ambush area" but caused no casualties among the rebel forces.

Another war report indicates that "the puppet Army sustained 15 dead and 6 wounded during an ambush near Rio Frio, San Vicente Department."

Captured Rebel 'Tortured'

PA2911184588 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Communique from the FMLN Modesto Ramirez Central Front, issued in Chalatenango—date not given]

[Text] We report the following to all our people, the International Red Cross Committee, Legal Assistance Office, Salvadoran Human Rights Commission, national and international media:

1. On Saturday [26 November] at 1430, our 17-year-old Comrade Gonzalo Lopez, aka Roberto, was wounded and captured in a clash with the Atlacatl Battalion at Canton El Amatillo, Las Vueltas jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department.

2. Following our comrade's capture, we intercepted the Atlacatl Battalion's communications. The 1st Company commander, who is called Yankee, reported to the Atlacatl Battalion's deputy commander, who is called Pirate, the capture of our wounded comrade and the seizure of his rifle. The Atlacatl Battalion's deputy commander ordered the 1st Company commander to get all the information he could from our Comrade Roberto and then to do what he had to do.

Later the 1st Company commander reported that our Comrade Roberto was too tough to break and had refused to spill the beans; in other words, he revealed no information to the enemy. The Atlacatl Battalion's deputy commander ordered the 1st Company commander to use any method necessary to get the information from our comrade. Some time later the 1st Company commander reported that our Comrade Roberto had been executed, and added that they were not able to get any information from him.

3. The above proves that our Comrade Roberto was cruely tortured and killed in cold blood after being captured.

4. We denounce and strongly condemn the cruel and barbaric murder perpetrated by the Atlacatl Battalion under Colonel [Julio Cesar] Grijalva's leadership. The murder violates the most elemental human rights norms stipulated in the Geneva Accords and the Panama agreements signed by the FMLN [16-second break in reception] Napoleon Duarte, the Army High Command, and the Armed Forces—particularly the Atlacatl Battalion's commander and deputy commander.

The criminal hand that assassinated Gonzalo Lopez, Comrade Roberto, [14-second break in reception] International Red Cross Committee, Legal Assistance Office, religious organizations, and human rights organizations to condemn this cruel assassination and to investigate the Atlacatl Battalion officers' actions [25-second break in reception].

Ungo Labels Democratic Merger 'Major Force'

PA3011024988 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Report by Ana Canizalez—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Canizales] "Democratic Merger [CD] presidential candidate Dr Guillermo Manuel Ungo has told 'TCS News' that the results of the poll taken by [name indistinct] show that in a short time the CD has become the third-ranking political force in the country.

"Ungo said, nevertheless, that the poll does not yet reflect the Salvadoran people's feelings and preferences on the presidential candidates because the conflict prevents them from expressing them."

[Ungo] "To conclude, this means that the CD is already a strong, nationwide movement and a major force. Bearing in mind that the poll results refer to only eight departments—in which we have not made ourselves known, and where we have not carried out any political activity, and that the poll does not cover the capital and San Salvador Department, where we are probably the leading force—we are probably even further ahead than the poll indicates."

[Canizales, in progress] "... for this reason it is said that this poll—or rather, the results—have been arranged to favor you and to make you feel that you are a force. What do you say to that, Doctor?"

[Ungo] "Well, if that were so they would have to place us in first or second place, which I think is closer to reality. I think they are typical right-wing accusations. They accused the Catholic Church and the archbishopric in the same way, saying the national debate was intended to favor us.

They said the same things about the FMLN and the CD. I would answer by paraphrasing Don Quixote: 'Sancho, you know we are on horseback when the dogs bark.'"

[Canizales] "On a different subject, Ungo said the electoral code reforms that were approved by the Legislative Assembly, specifically by the MADC [Authentic Christian Democratic Movement] and ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], signal the preparation of an electoral fraud in favor of ARENA.

"These statements were made during a meeting Ungo held with organized workers."

Guatemala

Cerezo Seeks Meeting With Area Presidents

PA3011005788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1417 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, who will be traveling to Mexico City tomorrow to attend Mexican President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari's inauguration, "wishes to meet with the Central American leaders attending the inauguration."

This was reported today by Guatemalan Government spokeswoman Claudia Arenas, who added that a meeting of Central American leaders "would allow progress" toward the presidential summit scheduled for January 1989 in El Salvador.

Since President Cerezo asked for a meeting of area presidents on 7 August, the 1st anniversary of the signing of the "Esquipulas II" Central American peace treaty, the meeting has been postponed three times. Arenas pointed out that "the Central American presidents' presence in Mexico makes possible a meeting to prepare for the upcoming summit, which we hope will bring peace to the region."

She added that President Cerezo expressed his wish to Salinas de Gortari when Salinas paid "a courtesy visit" to Guatemala last 11 November, but that the meeting in Mexico "will depend on the will of the presidents of the region."

After attending the Mexican president's inauguration, Cerezo will travel to Miami to participate in the 12th Caribbean Basin Conference on 1 [as received] December.

Cerezo, who received permission from Congress to leave "Central American territory" from 29 November to 5 December, will stay in Miami 3 days.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera, who traveled to Mexico on Sunday, will consult with his Central American counterparts about the possibility of holding a presidential summit in El Salvador in January.

Julio Santos, President Cerezo's spokesman, told ACAN-EFE that a meeting of Central American presidents in Mexico "would be successful if all five presidents participate because a consensus could be reached and a date set for the summit in El Salvador."

Cerezo will be accompanied by Finance Minister Rodolfo Paiz, Economy Minister [title as received] Oscar Pineda, Specific Affairs Minister Sara Mishaan, and Economic Planning Minister Elizardo Sosa [title as received].

In the Caribbean basin meeting, the Guatemalan delegation will propose that the U.S. aid program, which began in 1983, be extended from 12 to 24 years.

Minister Rules Out Land Reform by Expropriation

PA3011001988 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 28 Nov 88 p 3

[Report by Amafredo Castellanos]

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 28 Nov—The government will continue its policy in 1989 of purchasing and selling farms to benefit peasant groups. Agriculture Minister Rodolfo Estrada Hurtarte said the government would not implement land reform by expropriation.

Land tenure is still the most controversial topic in Guatemala and will probably receive the most attention in the national dialogue discussions called for by the National Reconciliation Commission, which will be attended by organizations such as the Committee of Peasant Unity and Father Andres Giron's movement. [passage omitted]

The reply given yesterday to EL GRAFICO by Eng Estrada Hurtarte on this controversial topic leaves no doubt it will be the same position the government will take in the national dialogue discussions.

During the interview the minister gave a broader explanation of his ideas on the problem.

For example, he said that "it does not matter who owns the land," as long as it's put to "efficient use." He spoke in favor of diversified crops so as to avoid dependence on coffee and sugar exports.

The minister commented: "That could save Guatemala; in 3 years we could become a powerful country."

He did say, however, that "there will not be agrarian reform based on expropriation, because that would not solve Guatemala's problems."

1. Purchasing and sale of farms will continue.

2. The handing over of government-owned property in the northern part of the country will be planned.

The minister explained further: "Our policy will not be simply to hand over land titles to the peasants and wish them good luck. We want to develop real and productive projects and give them the proper financial and technical support."

Honduras

Azcona 'Willing To Meet' With Ortega in Mexico

PA2911180888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1634 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Jose Azcona will travel to Mexico to attend the 1 December presidential inauguration of Carlos Salinas de Gortari on 30 November.

A Honduran Government source said Azcona will travel with Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras, Armed Forces Chief General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, and Interior Minister Enrique Ortez Colindres.

According to the same source, President Azcona is willing to meet in private with his Central American counterparts who attend Salinas de Gortari's inauguration.

Last week Azcona said that if Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega—who is already in Mexico—went to the inauguration, he would be willing to meet with Ortega to discuss the region's political situation.

According to reports circulating in Tegucigalpa, Azcona will also try to meet with U.S. President-elect George Bush.

The Central American foreign ministers are meeting in Mexico 29-30 November to prepare the agenda for the next Central American summit, which was postponed three times between August and November 1988.

The Central American summit could be held in January 1989.

Honduran President Azcona will return to Tegucigalpa on 3 December.

FMLN Attacks Salvador-Honduras Bridge

PA2911201188 Tegucigalpa Telecadena 7 y 4 in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] FMLN guerrillas tried to blow up a bridge between the Honduran border customs office in Aguacaliente and the Salvadoran border customs office in El Poy.

The rebels attacked the Salvadoran border post, killing two Salvadoran Army subofficers. Colonel Alejandro Martinez Avila, commander of the Honduran military group in the area, said today that Honduran Army patrols were combing the border area as a security precaution.

There were no clashes between Honduran troops and Salvadoran rebels, nor was the bridge that links the two countries damaged.

Nicaragua

Ortega Extends Cease-Fire for 1 Month

PA3011000588 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2140 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Report by Foreign Ministry Information Director Luis Cabrera on "excerpt" of news conference by President Daniel Ortega in Mexico City on 29 November]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Ortega] I think it is convenient to extend the cease-fire for another 30 days. The cease-fire is scheduled to end tomorrow, 30 November. The Nicaraguan Government has decided to extend it for another month, for all of December. [Words indistinct] the counterrevolutionaries have been trying to manipulate (?the events) in our country and the confrontations. We do not want them to say the cease-fire is over. The cease-fire still continues. It will be in force during the month of December. [end recording]

[Cabrera] Ortega also said the Nicaraguan Government has not broken this cease-fire at any time, but the counterrevolutionaries have perpetrated several actions. During the news conference, Ortega was also asked about the U.S. Administration's change in plan regarding Nicaragua. Ortega reiterated the government's invitation to talk [words indistinct].

He was asked whether he would remain quiet during a possible last-ditch effort by the U.S. Administration. He said it is impossible to remain at ease. On talks with the United States, Ortega recalled that when he went to Brazil to attend the ceremony when Jose Sarney took over as president because of the serious illness of the Brazilian president-elect, he talked with George Bush. Those attending applauded when Ortega and Bush shook hands.

Ortega also said there is now a very good chance for a presidential meeting in Mexico City although Costa Rican President Oscar Arias is not present. The reporters then asked him if he had planned an informal meeting with Fidel Castro. He said no. He added that he thought the Central American presidents' meeting should be held almost immediately and that such a meeting is being hampered by the Honduran Government, on U.S. Government instructions.

He added that Nicaragua's position is firm regarding the issue with Honduras under discussion at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. This is what President Ortega said.

Ortega Praises Legacy of Mexico's Zapata
PA3011024688 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2114 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Report by Luis Cabrera]

[Excerpts] [Cabrera] This morning at 1030, Commander Daniel Ortega visited the house where General Emiliano Zapata was born. Commander Ortega talked to us at Gen Zapata's home, where he also signed the guest book. In the guest book Ortega wrote a special message on behalf of the Nicaraguan people. [passage omitted]

[Begin Ortega recording] Men who represent the will of the people go down in history as men who defend just causes. Zapata, the general of the free men of Mexico and our America, believed in justice, freedom, and peace. We are proud to be here at the home of a man who has been the fountain of inspiration for Sandino's people.

Free fatherland or death. [end recording]

[Cabrera] This is what Commander Ortega wrote in the guest book. The reporters immediately asked him questions about Zapata.

[Begin Ortega recording] We are proud to be here where Zapata was born. Zapata has been an inspiration to the Latin American peoples, especially the Nicaraguan people, in their struggle. Sandino was inspired by Zapata's struggle. The Sandinists are inspired by Zapata and the popular support that Zapata's struggle received is also being expressed in the struggle waged by the Nicaraguan people, a struggle we have been consolidating throughout the past years.

[Question indistinct]

[Cabrera] Commander Ortega is being asked whether the Nicaraguan agrarian struggle will be as strong as the Mexican agrarian struggle.

[Ortega] The Nicaraguan agrarian struggle has been very successful. In July 1979 we eradicated capitalism and imperialism and our struggle has strengthened with the reforms that the revolutionary government has implemented to help the peasants. [end recording]

Ramirez Cited on 'Economic Crimes,' Corruption
PA2911121788 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

["Excerpt" of speech by Vice President Sergio Ramirez during the closing ceremony of the First Congress on Economic Crimes held at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Problems should not be concealed, ignored, or avoided on the assumption that in a revolutionary government there cannot be cases of embezzlement, fraud, or crimes against the state's property and economic interests, or complicity or indecision in facing these crimes. We certainly believe these crimes should not exist, but we must admit that they do exist, and therefore we must face them. Even though we admit they exist—during this congress you have broadly discussed the subject of economic crimes from the legal, political, economic, and administrative viewpoint, as can be seen in the conclusions that have just been read here—the fact that they exist, I repeat, does not mean they are compatible with the revolutionary process and the revolution's ethical values. It is therefore necessary to discuss this matter publicly, frankly, and openly—as we have done here—to find political, legal, administrative ways to face this problem, which we regard as one of the revolutions' main problems.

As I said, we cannot tolerate this type of crime in Nicaraguan society or in the revolutionary government because of its ethical and moral connotations. From the political and legal standpoint, it is necessary to enforce the laws against these crimes and to improve these laws to maintain social order.

In this regard, we must stress that these criminal actions and conduct are followed by a minority of public employees. I believe it is important to note this. We should not fall into the extreme position of seeing each manager, official, or anyone who handles public funds as a potential criminal or someone who cannot be trusted on principle.

I believe it is important to make this clear, because it can be said that economic crimes in general are due to political and economic instability, low salaries, deficient administrative controls, excessive bureaucracy, and so forth. The truth, however, is that despite those factors—which should be seen in the proper perspective—we are talking about a situation affecting a minority, as this conduct is not followed by the great majority of administrators and managers of public enterprises. In other words, there are employees who receive low salaries, who do not earn as much as they should, and who, due to the difficult economic situation Nicaragua is confronting, cannot fulfill all their expectations for a better life to which they are entitled through a fair salary. They certainly have a right to improve their own personal and professional conditions, but they cannot do so because of the grave economic problems the country is facing. Despite this situation, there are hundreds of managers, administrative directors, internal auditors, and executives who are faithful to their duties. They are honest people who are dedicated to their work but underpaid. I think this is the main point we should stress.

We cannot allow a direct link to be established between what we perceive as the economic insecurity—or political insecurity, as some may point out—of the public servants and the spread of embezzlement or other economic crimes. This is not the case. I [words indistinct] because if we are talking about this problem, it is because we want to talk about it, because we need to talk about it,

and because—I repeat—embezzlement or other economic crimes are incompatible with the Sandinist revolution. We are discussing this problem because it is neither a new phenomenon that appeared with the revolution nor limited to Nicaragua.

New Radio Sandino Director Appointed

PA2911230888 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Nov 88 p 4

[Unattributed report]

[Text] In a surprise move, while the government radio station Radio Sandino celebrated its 10th anniversary its director, journalist Rodolfo Tapia Molina, was replaced by Humberto Sanchez Martinica.

However, according to a Radio Sandino source there are various reasons for the change. Dionisio Marenco, who serves as the FSLN's director of agitation and propaganda, will become general director of all of the state's broadcast stations.

Sanchez Martinica, who has been serving as director of CORADEP [People's Radio Broadcasting Corporation] stations, will be Radio Sandino's new director. Rodolfo Tapia Salinas, who had become the station's director at the end of 1985, will be director of his radio newspaper Radio Informaciones.

Dionisio Marenco will be the general director of Radio Sandino, Voz de Nicaragua, La Primerisima, and all the other CORADEP stations.

Arce on Economic Measures for Working Class

PA2911145388 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Nov 88 p 6

[By M.M. Gonzalez]

[Text] Esteli—Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano has stated that the government and the FSLN National Directorate are examining the plight of the workers to decide what economic measures the government will take in the future, because while it is true that there are no plans for giving the workers any special benefits at this time, it is also true that the purpose of new economic measures will be to defend the standard of living of the people.

During a visit to Region I, Arce said: "We are not going to speak of benefits because this cannot be done in a situation as complex as war, but we will try to defend as much as we can the standard of living of the peasants and the workers."

Bayardo Arce noted that the government is continuing to study the cumulative damage done by Hurricane Joan to the economy since only the obvious damage has been estimated so far. The storm damage will affect, logically, the economic policies that have been implemented since February of this year.

He said that the objectives of the economic measures will not change. These objectives are: increased production, increased productivity, more efficient use of raw materials, reduction in production costs, increased exports, and control over the fiscal deficit and inflation.

Arce noted that as a result of the hurricane, the Industry and Commerce Ministry decided to place 14 products under price controls.

Arce said that "it is illogical to allow the price of matches to be uncontrolled since only one company produces matches, as is the case for plastic containers for dairy products. Such a policy would make milk more expensive."

In evaluating the results of the AFA [not futher identified] economic measures, Arce said that they served to remove from the market-price system those products considered to be staples. That policy was implemented for private sector employees. They have been able to buy staples at subsidized prices, though not at the same prices offered to state employees.

In responding to questions from some Esteli citizens about "how long the economic situation will last," Arce said: "If we want to live better, we will have to work and produce more. We cannot live on credits and gifts. The economic measures depend on a philosophy that calls for work and production."

Value of Cordoba Drops, Dollar Rises

PA2911192688 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The price of the dollar has risen again on the parallel market. One dollar will now be bought for 2,500 cordobas and sold for 2,625 cordobas.

Panama

Authorities Release Two IRHE Labor Leaders

PA2911214488 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2016 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Panama City, 29 Nov (DPA)—Local authorities have released two of the three labor union leaders of the state-owned Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, IRHE. They had been charged with participating in a plot to overthrow the current Panamanian Government.

Fernando Gaona and Julio Gorbalan were held for 67 days in several Panama City prisons until early today, when they were released through the mediation of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees, FENASEP.

Luis Hurtado, the third IRHE labor union leader involved, is still being held at El Renacer rehabilitation center.

Ritter To Attend Mexican President's Inauguration

PA2911205288 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Mexican President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari has invited his colleague Manuel Solis Palma, as Panama's head of state, to his inauguration, which will take place in Mexico City on 1 December.

Due to his many official commitments in the next few days, President Solis Palma has appointed Foreign Minister Jorge E. Ritter as our government's representative to this transition of power in our sister nation.

As traditionally, the president will head the official activities commemorating our independence from Spain on 28 November. On 29 November he will inaugurate the third biennial meeting of chiefs of national technical cooperation agencies of the Group of 77, which will take place at the ATLAPA Convention Center.

Housing Minister Discusses U.S. Army Leases

PA2911141888 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 29 Nov 88 p 2

[Report by Nelson Lee Caceres]

[Text] If the executive branch does not approve a moratorium [on rent payments] for the houses leased by the U.S. Armed Forces in the canal area, then we must get the houses back. This was stated to MATUTINO by Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez during the Democratic Revolutionary Party's minicongress in La Chorrera.

The Housing Ministry, Foreign Ministry, and Presidency are currently reviewing the possibility of collecting the amount owed by the U.S. Armed Forces, Minister Bermudez added.

The housing minister also said the U.S. Armed Forces have been notified that a moratorium cannot be granted because of the amount owed the Panamanian Government.

The United States owes $900,000 for several months rent, he emphasized.

Asked if there is a deadline for the U.S. Armed Forces to return the houses to Panama, Minister Bermudez said that has not been determined. The executive branch and the Foreign Ministry will handle the pertinent details if the moratorium requested by the U.S. Armed Forces members residing in Panamanian territory is not approved.

Solis Palma: U.S. Misinterprets Panama Problems

PA2911135888 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0302 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Report by Katherine King]

[Text] Panama City, 28 Nov (REUTER)—Panamanian Minister in Charge of the Presidency Manuel Solis Palma stated today that the United States—after failing in its attempt to depose military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega—continues to misinterpret Panama's political problems.

Solis Palma was asked to comment on a statement made by the U.S. State Department on Friday that praised the opposition's "unity plan."

Solis Palma told REUTER that the plan was not serious and the U.S. support revealed that Washington had not analyzed it. "I believe they [the United States] continue making the mistake of not making an in-depth analysis of Panama's political problem," Solis told REUTER after attending a mass commemorating the 167th anniversary of independence from Spain.

"It seems to me that the communique lacks seriousness. It is like saying...that they are against the electoral process as a solution to Panama's problem," he added.

The six opposition parties issued a communique Thursday that stated they had joined together to search for a "transitional national unity government" and requested the immediate removal of Noriega, who has resisted months of U.S.-backed pressure for his resignation.

The four-paragraph communique does not give details about how the opposition plans to attain their objectives.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter said the communique was "unreal" and that the U.S. reaction was "contradictory."

Ritter, who attended the independence mass with other officials and diplomats, added that the communique "is unreal because it calls for a coup d'etat—which has not taken place—in order to form a government." [sentence as received]

He said "the U.S. reaction is contradictory because it maintains it does not interfere in Panama's internal affairs, but it supports an opposition group."

Noriega shows no sign of weakening after months of political and economic pressure, and the promilitary political parties are actively campaigning for the 7 May general elections.

The opposition parties have not stated if they will participate in these elections that, according to them, will be fraudulent unless the opposition media are reopened.

Further Comments Noted

PA2911145188 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Report on statements by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, by Hilda Esther Canenges; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Canenges] President of the Republic Manuel Solis has said a national consultation and coordination document drafted by opposition parties is aimed at disavowing the current government. He pointed out that the establishment of a provisional government violates national order.

[Solis Palma] "I do not believe the document promotes national consultation and coordination; it is a national consultation and coordination by the opposition to disavow the current government and establish a provisional government which, according to them, would guarantee elections.

"By establishing a provisional government, they would simply be assuming the role of ruling the country. In so doing, they would be violating constitutional order and refusing to participate in elections that we have called in accordance with our Constitution."

[Canenges] As for the United States' support for the document, President Solis Palma said:

[Solis Palma] "For a long time now we have seen no differences between the State Department position and domestic [opposition] positions. Often there is a difference in timing. Sometimes the opposition makes a statement first and then the State Department repeats it, and other times the State Department makes a statement and the opposition accepts it later. We are not dealing with two different things here."

[Canenges] Finally, when questioned about current relations between Panama and the United States, he said:

[Solis Palma] "We are following our own path; we continue moving forward and are willing to hold talks. However, I reaffirm we have always advocated a very clear position of maintaining our sovereignty, dignity, and (?decorum). With those conditions, we are willing to hold talks with any country."

PDC's Arias on Opposition Document, Elections

PA2811200388 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Interview with Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party, by Cadena Exitosa News Director Ramon Jimenez Velez, in Panama City on 28 November—recorded]

[Text] [Jimenez] In our effort to discuss topics that are important to our community, we will now interview Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Panamanian Christian Democratic Party. We will discuss a document released to the public by political parties that are members of what has been called the country's democratic opposition. First, I would like to tell Ricardo Arias Calderon that in view of current speculation about a possible division within the opposition, the document seems to hint that there is a basic agreement among the various opposition parties and groups about the need for unity in view of the current political situation. What is the true meaning of that document? Has the opposition, in fact, reached an agreement?

[Arias] I believe the most important aspect of the document, which is titled "A Document for Political Agreement," is that it proves that an agreement exists among six local political parties, four of which—the Authentic Panamenist Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Nationalist Liberal Republican Alliance, and the Authentic Liberal Party—were members of the Opposition Democratic Alliance during the 1984 elections. The other two parties—the Republican Party headed by Eric Arturo Delvalle and the Liberal Party headed by Roderick Esquivel—were members of the National Democratic Unity, UNADE, during the 1984 elections.

The most important thing is that political groups that strongly opposed each other in the 1984 elections have now reached a political agreement. In my opinion, that agreement gives us a lot of hope. It shows that the country's democratic opposition is expanding and beginning to welcome political groups who were opponents in the past, and it is doing this for very specific reasons. As the document says, we reached that political agreement to overcome hunger and unemployment and to establish democratic institutions. The six aforementioned parties reached a political agreement hoping to democratize the country and rebuild its economy.

I can tell you, Ramon, that in my visits to various areas of the country people have come to me calling for increasingly stronger unity in the local democratic opposition. I believe that with this document the six parties are responding to a call that is in fact a deep need of our people to democratize Panama.

[Jimenez] It seems to me the document is important because it takes another look at existing situations. It points toward democratic elections and the need to establish a provisional government, one that could break the current impasse between the opposition and the government of deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle, on the one hand, and the current regime, on the other.

In view of the statements by the opposition that under current circumstances elections do not really guarantee the country's democratization, is the formation of a government of national conciliation a precondition of the opposition to participate in the electoral process recently opened by the Electoral Tribunal, or are there other ways to negotiate the opposition's participation in the elections?

[Arias] I think that by presenting the need to form a provisional government of national unity we are saying that Panama's democratization must begin before the elections. In current circumstances, with some media closed; with political prisoners who have been in jail for over two months and who cannot even get in touch with their lawyers; with dozens of Panamanians in exile because of local persecution; and with an Electoral Tribunal that offers no guarantees for the elections, to think that elections will solve the current crisis is an illusion. What the six parties who signed the document for political agreement are saying is that a prior step must be taken so that, instead of being an additional confrontation among Panamanians, elections contribute to solve the crisis. That preliminary step must be a provisional government of national unity that guarantees an atmosphere of freedom, respect, and peace within which we can hold free and honest elections.

All the parties that signed the document have proposed that idea in various ways, but now we are being more specific and we are presenting it jointly.

[Jimenez] Regarding the opposition position on the need to have changes in the government to guarantee democratization, and taking into account the government proposals—basically the statements by the FDP [Panama Defense Forces] commander [General Manuel Antonio Noriega] that opposition groups are linked to what he has termed U.S. aggression, even though the government has always been willing to directly negotiate with the United States—it seems, however, that the government position regarding the closing of media, which you mentioned, is that the media are an instrument of foreign aggression. It seems the situation is at a stalemate in which the government is assuming the opposition is not seeking national development and the country's democratization. The opposition maintains it is necessary to have a democratic government to hold elections. Do you think it will be possible at some time to reach an understanding so the situation will not—as former or current secretary general of the SITIRHE [Union of Workers of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] Isaac Rodriguez said in Madrid—lead to violence? You have also noted that there is a chance that holding the elections without this prior step could lead to violence.

[Arias] Your comment asks many questions and I want to respond to them one by one.

Regarding the closing of the media and other human rights violations, they are not the result of any foreign aggression. They are the result of repressive actions by the current regime. This position is not simply the opposition parties position. For example, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA's 25th November issue publishes statements by the Panama archbishop, which I quote: The Panamanian Government is placing obstacles to reaching an agreement by not recognizing the individual's rights. This has to be improved so that we can have a trustworthy electoral process.

Thus, our country's highest religious authority sees human rights violations not as the result of foreign aggression, but rather an action by those who have been holding power up to now. What we have done is to point out that the repression is not by accident, that it is the result of a regime that lacks legitimacy and the people's support. Repression is the only way for illegitimate regimes lacking support to remain in power. Therefore, repression of the freedom of expression, of the freedom to carry out demonstrations, of the right to form groups, of individual rights, of the right to live in the country; these human rights violations by a regime are not merely the result of the circumstances nor are they accidental actions by a legal and valid regime against the Panamanian people.

What the parties signing the document are saying is that this repressive situation is the result of an illegitimate regime lacking the people's support. If we want to solve the situation regarding the lack of fundamental rights, and if we want to create a suitable climate for elections, we must get to the root of the problem. When we have gotten to the root of the problem, what we have found is the need to set up a national unity transitional government that can promote a broad participation and that can get the support the current government neither has nor can attain. This is one of the points I wanted to clarify.

Another point I would like to mention is that when we analyze the reason for the current problem we cannot avoid the topic of the role of the Panamanian armed forces because they are the support of the current regime. This is a very important aspect of the document we signed. In our political agreement, those of us who signed the document have pointed out that in order for a national unity transitional government to create a climate of freedom that makes it possible to hold free and clean elections, it is necessary to have changes in the FDP hierarchy and in its current stance regarding the Panamanian political system.

Our document stresses three issues regarding the FDP. First, it stresses that Gen Noriega must immediately leave our country's armed forces. It is impossible to believe that Panama can undergo a process of democratization while someone who has led the country to its current crisis remains in power. The six parties that signed this document demand that Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega immediately leave the armed forces.

Second, we believe that the FDP's integrity as an institution must be respected. We will not be able to solve Panama's crisis by harboring thoughts of persecution, resentment, and revenge against the military institution or its members. Because we want to solve the crisis, we are committed to respecting the FDP's integrity. We also call upon the FDP to contribute, in a true spirit of reconciliation, to our country's reconstruction under legitimate civilian authorities. For the FDP to retain their integrity as an institution, they must be placed—as it should be within a democratic system—under legitimate civilian authorities.

Our document's third point concerning the FDP stresses that the new FDP leadership—which will have to be formed following Gen Noriega's departure—should be the one to make the necessary changes in military positions both inside and outside of Panama. Any new military leadership—especially one undergoing a transition from a dictatorship to democracy—has to make changes in its military command. We feel that it is preferable for the FDP to make these changes according to their regulations, their personnel situation, and their own evaluation of the current military leadership's conduct. The FDP thereby would protect their institutional integrity during this transition process. No one will be tempted to meddle in the FDP's professional affairs or to use the FDP for political purposes.

I think this is a very serious proposal that entails enormous responsibility. We have used very deliberate language and very balanced thinking in trying to save our country from falling apart, a fate that looms before us all. We are saying: Attention, everyone. We are at the point where we need to form a government of national unity if we are to save the country. This government needs to guarantee public freedoms, order, and peace, so we can save our country and have free and honest elections. For all this to be possible, an essential change must take place within the FDP. That change requires Gen Noriega's departure and the recognition of the FDP's institutional integrity under a legitimate civilian authority. The FDP's new leadership would carry out the changes in command that are normal in a transition process such as the one we want for our country—in other words, a peaceful process.

[Jimenez] You spoke about the need to democratize the country through peaceful means. Although the opposition has clearly stated its points and for some time has been saying the current government does not guarantee the country's democratization, the government maintains that the solution to the crisis will come with the elections and within the current political situation and the current governmental and administrative structure. In fact, the government recently appointed a new magistrate to the Electoral Tribunal who has been accused of hindering the opposition parties. In view of that situation, does the opposition believe in or see any possibility for a change in the government through a dialogue, or does it believe confrontation could occur?

[Arias] We hope to make that change through a dialogue. In different ways, all the signatories of the document have stated our willingness to participate in a dialogue held under specific conditions. We have stated our desire to hold a direct dialogue with the military. We want to hold a dialogue in a country that respects constitutional guarantees. We want a dialogue that would somehow be promoted by the Catholic Church hierarchy and, if possible, by the papal representative in Panama.

I want to comment about what you said concerning the regime's spokesmen and their extreme inflexibility toward our proposals. I just came back from a short trip to Caracas, where I participated in a forum on Latin American democratization. Through well-informed contacts, I found out that in the last couple of weeks the Panamanian regime sent a civilian-military delegation to Venezuela to meet with prominent Venezuelan figures and try to promote solutions for the Panamanian problem. Among these solutions were a plebiscite with the continuation of the current executive branch for 2 more years; elections to appoint a constituent assembly; and the formation of a government junta.

A regime that sends abroad a civilian-military delegation, which fully represents it, to present such solutions is a regime that—regardless of what it says—is beginning to become aware that its end is near and that its ability to lead and propose solutions to the country has been exhausted. Despite the inflexibility of certain regime spokesmen, the regime's internal reality seems different from what its spokesmen say.

In addition, other Latin Americans at the Caracas forum told us that a characteristic of all democratization processes is that the country reaches a point in which its entire society rejects the existing dictatorship by a vast majority, which includes political parties, civic groups and associations, and independent groups. Once that point is reached—once society stops functioning normally under the dictatorship and enters a socioeconomic crisis, as is happening to us now, once the dictatorship is diplomatically isolated even by those who have been its allies, as is happening to the Panamanian regime—when that critical point comes, to a certain extent the next step in the democratization process is up to the organization that has propped up the dictatorship; in other words, it is up to the FDP.

For that reason, the opposition document talks about a provisional national unity government, about the conditions needed to hold free and honest elections, and also and more extensively about the FDP's role. This is because we believe that under the current circumstances, in view of our people's struggle for the country's democratization and in view of the critical moment that struggle has reached, the next step—if the Latin American experience can teach us something—would be up to the FDP. The FDP must change their direction themselves and in that way protect their institutional integrity. They must make the necessary changes in their command and leadership to create a new relationship with society, which now rejects the FDP. This would lay the foundation for an authentic process of democratization.

[Jimenez] I would like to ask you one final question, Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon. In their document, the opposition groups propose the need for a provisional government to lead the way toward the elections. Do they feel that such a government should be formed by the opposition alone, or are they referring to a national unity government that would rule until the 7 May elections?

[Arias] I think the parties signing this document are very careful about what they say. We know our words can take on a momentum of their own.

The document begins by saying: the political parties and politically independent men and women signing this document. Six parties have signed this document. Four of the parties have made up the Democratic Opposition Alliance since 1984. The two other parties had participated in the current government, but they have been removed from the government and oppose the regime. This list of political groups is not final. The document does not say: the six political parties that have signed this document. Rather, the document says: the political parties signing this document. By saying this, we are opening the doors of our unity to other political groups who want to embrace this document's spirit and meaning.

We have not limited the document to political parties, either. We have added: ...and politically independent men and women signing this document. We thus invite all well-meaning Panamanians who wish to identify with this proposal to do so.

We are talking about a transitional government, a government of national unity with broad participation, supported by the will of the majority. To build a democracy—to rapidly and effectively make the transition from a dictatorship to democracy—we need the greatest contribution from as many Panamanians as possible. My position—and I think those signing the document share this position—is to welcome all Panamanian groups and individuals who see that, under the current circumstances, we must put an end to the dictatorship and begin a process of true democracy. This must be done peacefully, in a spirit of reconciliation—not in a spirit of revenge. I think this basically answers your question, Ramon.

Lewis Galindo Supports Opposition Unity Plan

PA3011002088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0232 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Washington, 28 Nov (EFE)—Gabriel Lewis Galindo, the Panamanian diplomat in exile in Washington because of his opposition to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, expressed his support today for a national unity agreement signed by the Panamanian opposition on 23 November.

"Moved by the same principles and ideals that moved you, I wish to express my approval and unconditional support for the agreement," Lewis Galindo says today in a letter sent to the leaders of the six parties that signed the document.

With this agreement, the opposition commits itself to support a provisional government of national unity that will preside over the May elections and to respect, without "persecution, rancor, or revenge," the integrity of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] as long as Noriega's "immediate retirement" as chief of the FDP is ensured.

"We welcome opposition efforts to solve the economic and political crisis and we support the efforts of the Panamanian people to work with the FDP to achieve political stability," the U.S. State Department announced on 24 November. The State Department has described the proposal as "an important attempt."

Lewis Galindo defined the agreement as "a patriotic action marked by personal and partisan unselfishness," and added that it represents "the most powerful weapon to confront tyranny."

In statements to EFE today, Lewis Galindo said the agreement "disproves two lies used by Noriega to defend himself: that the opposition is trying to destroy the FDP and that the opposition is not united."

Lewis Galindo believes the document for political unity is quite clear in stating that the FDP must participate in resolving the Panamanian crisis so that it will be "part of the solution and not part of the problem."

Plan Rejected by UNADE

PA3011013388 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] In a statement released this afternoon, the National Democratic Union, UNADE, rejects the plans being drafted by foreigners and their local followers to install in our country a de facto government under foreign guidance. The UNADE has described the suggestion for a provisional government as anti-Panamanian and has called on the people to support the 7 May 1989 elections.

In their statement entitled "For the Democratic Self-Determination of the Panamanian People" the UNADE parties call on Panamanians to participate in the May elections to choose their government without foreign intervention or manipulation, through an open, pluralist, and honest election.

PdP's Souza Supports Noriega for President

PA2911201388 Paris AFP in Spanish 2310 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Panama City, 28 Nov (AFP)—A member of the Panamanian People's Party's [PdP] (Communist) Political Bureau said today that General Manuel Antonio Noriega "fulfills the requirements" to be the next Panamanian president.

Panamanian communist leader Cleto Souza told AFP that the chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] "is the best-suited man to lead a strong government capable of taking Panama out of the crisis."

Local political circles have mentioned Gen Noriega, who is at the center of the crisis Panama has been experiencing for the last 17 months and whom the United States has failed to overthrow, as a possible government presidential candidate for the 7 May 1989 elections.

Souza said there is an "alliance" between the left and labor unions and the current government which will be maintained during the elections, but he warned that there are other options such as "a plebiscite, a coup d'etat, or the formation of a constituent assembly."

During a speech delivered on 24 November, Gen Noriega asked the ruling National Democratic Union (UNADE) to form a "strategic alliance" with the left and labor unions to avoid losing political power in the 1989 elections.

In the aforementioned speech, quoting the late Gen Omar Torrijos, Noriega characterized those who would allow power to be taken away from them as true "assholes" [pendejos]. Noriega spoke before 1,000 FDP lieutenants, who swore "not to give in" to U.S. pressures.

Labor Union Leader Comments on Unemployment
PA2911205188 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture's Center for Economic Studies has revealed that the unemployment situation continues to be of great concern in Panama. According to polls, the number of people employed in July and August of this year declined 22.2 percent compared to the same period in 1987. This figure is greater than the 18.7 percent decline registered in June.

Businesses foresee further monthly declines in employment rates, adding that an additional 1.6 percent unemployment decline will be registered in November.

IPEL [Panamanian Institute of Labor Studies—Instituto Panameno de Estudios Laborales] representative Ivan Dominguez discussed this issue, as well as the degree of optimism in the work force:

[Dominguez] "The unemployment problem in Panama is serious, but as I have said before, workers have faced it very calmly and very seriously. This makes us feel that our work here at the IPEL serves a purpose. We are alarmed at the unemployment rate. However, we have seen that workers are displaying a basic, serious, and keen interest in keeping the country afloat."

CONATO [National Council of Organized Workers] union leader Rolando Ordonez analyzed the problem differently:

[Ordonez] "First of all, those of us handling labor cases in Panama continue to be shocked at how unemployment is increasing in Panama. We could easily say that over 75,000 people have become unemployed so far in 1988, regardless of what official statistics claim. There are over 75,000 unemployed. Let them [the government] try to prove we are wrong."

Construction Experiencing '85-Percent Decline'
PA2911154988 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] According to Eduardo de Bello, former Panama Chamber of Construction president, Panama's current crisis has led to an 85-percent decline in the construction field compared to last year. De Bello said that construction figures have gone from 157 million balboas in 1987 to 25 million balboas in 1988. He added that the decline has caused a tremendous brain drain in the fields of engineering and architecture.

[Begin recording] [De Bello] The construction field has been the field most affected by the crisis. Likewise, because we work so closely with the construction sector, I think architects and engineers have been the most affected by the current crisis. Unfortunately, we have seen several professionals who have been forced to leave the country. We are suffering from tremendous unemployment, and several of us have had to seek better opportunities in other countries.

[Reporter] Do you know the number of professionals who have left Panama or do you have a figure for the money lost as a result of the construction crisis?

[De Bello] No. We have not been keeping track of the number of professionals who have left. We do, however, keep track of the number of construction permits. Those figures show that current construction activity is 15 percent of what it was last year. This indicates that the situation in the construction and engineering fields is currently a serious one. [end recording]

Argentina

Communique Supports Palestinian Independence

PY3011010788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2019 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Nov (TELAM)—The Foreign Ministry has released a communique through which the Argentine Government reiterates its support of the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and independence in their own territory, and to the right of all the states of the region to live within secure and internationally accepted borders.

In the communique, the Foreign Ministry states that the [words indistinct] meeting of the Palestine National Congress represents a contribution to the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The communique adds that on the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, the Argentine Government views with concern the atmosphere of tension and confrontation in the occupied territories, all of which calls for the urgent enforcement of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Security Council resolutions set the principles and basic guidelines for solving the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The communique concludes by stating that the Argentine Government reiterates its support of the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and independence within their own territory, and to the right of all the states of the region to live within secure and internationally accepted borders.

Alfonsin, Sarney Speak on Integration Treaty

Alfonsin Speech

PY2911232688 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2013 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Speech by President Raul Alfonsin at a ceremony to sign an integration treaty along with his visiting Brazilian counterpart, President Jose Sarney; given at Government House in Buenos Aires—live]

[Excerpts] Mr President, the Argentine people and the Argentine president are honored to have the Brazilian president with us once more. We welcome you as a friend, and as the representative of a people friendly to our people. [passage omitted]

Mr President, today we are privileged to witness an event with very deep historical significance. When we call on our respective parliaments to approve the treaty we have just signed, we will be calling on the legitimate representatives of our peoples to ensure the launching of a process that we are sure will have a marked influence on our national future.

Such an important project, programmed to advance step by step toward the final goal of a common market between Argentina and Brazil, requires something beyond the determined action of our two governments. It requires the participation of our national congresses, through which the popular will is expressed. This step will turn this treaty into a historic commitment between our two nations.

This will be the first time in Latin America that two countries embark on a program of such size and political importance. This decision, we are convinced, will be a powerful incentive to reach the levels of development and well-being that our peoples deserve. It will also serve to mobilize those behind the great objective of Latin American unity, the old dream of our founding fathers, a dream that has been postponed too long.

We expect other nations to join our integration treaty in the near future. We have the clear notion that our goal is very large and important, and that we will need courage and determination to reach it. But what important project, implying deep transformations for men and their nations, does not require courage and determination?

We are determined to implement this treaty because we know the world of our children will not be built on old structures. We are living in an era of larger economic coalitions, and the world is becoming increasingly interdependent.

There is little space left today for nations to grow and prosper alone. In fact, we have no alternative. Either we join efforts and capacities to speed up our growth toward the levels of industrialization we aspire to achieve, or we will see ourselves increasingly falling behind, and we will stay, as we are today, on the margins of progress in the 21st century.

Our peoples rightfully demand that we give them better working conditions and well-being. Our resources, technologies, and capacities do not feel sorry for our people's relative backwardness. [sentence as heard] This problem will become more acute if we do not do something to close the breach separating our countries from the industrialized countries, which continue to accumulate capital and advanced technologies.

The combined populations of Argentina and Brazil will be about 200 million in the year 2,000. Our countries occupy an immense geographic area extending from the equator to the Antarctic. Nearly 50 million people work and produce in the Sao Paulo-Buenos Aires axis and their areas of influence alone. This area generates overall revenues equivalent to any of the world's main productive centers. These are the realities which, together with other world trends, have convinced us that we can no longer delay the creation of a larger regional market to produce and trade on a scale compatible with that of other industrialized countries.

Argentina and Brazil have the inescapable need to enter the 21st century in a condition to compete effectively in the international markets. We can only do this if we adopt measures similar to those leading to a unified Europe, as it will be in 1992.

Mr President, Argentines and Brazilians today take a historic step forward. We begin a one-way road toward a very clearly defined goal.

The importance of this treaty made necessary the participation of our respective congresses, not only to approve each one of the chapters of the treaty, but also to participate in the mechanisms of analysis and follow up on what the treaty creates. We will thus assure the full participation of our peoples through their representatives in Congress in a process whose evolution is of interest to society as a whole. The treaty also provides for the implementation committee to be under the responsibility of the presidents of the two countries, so as to guarantee that its decisions represent the unmistakable will of the two governments, and that they will be implemented without delays. [passage omitted]

Sarney Speech

PY2911233988 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2032 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Speech by Brazilian President Jose Sarney during a ceremony to sign a Brazilian-Argentine integration treaty; given at Government House in Buenos Aires—live]

[Excerpts] Your Excellency, the President of the Argentine Republic, Dr Raul Alfonsin:

Today is a significant day in the history of our continent, a day that will mark an extraordinary change in the search for Latin American economic independence, a day that will give testimony to our political maturity. [passage omitted]

Looking into our future, I can see that we will create a common market of more than 200 million consumers, who will have no economic barriers, who will be part of a regional economy, who will be ready to undertake binational projects, with free circulation of goods and services, and without tariff barriers. This is how we will participate in international trade.

The legacy that we will bequeath is the consolidation of this objective, which will be attained by the work of our people, by those who will succeed us, with the support of the representatives of the people in Congress, which reflects the pluralistic will of our societies. [passage omitted]

We will not be alone in the future, because other Latin American countries will join us. The difficulties of today will be recalled as the sacrifice of yesterday, which we had to go through by solving almost unsolvable conflicts, by experiencing times of institutional changes, and by trying to consolidate a pluralistic, open, and challenging democracy, which is the foundation of freedom and, as such, a very difficult task.

No fair development can be achieved without democracy, just as there can be neither internal nor external lasting peace without democracy. [passage omitted]

Mr President: In July 1986, the document for Brazilian-Argentine integration laid the foundations that led to the signing of this treaty.

Through the protocols of that document, we designed realistic cooperation programs in the areas of advanced technology, which have yielded their fruit. The results of those programs can be seen in the biotechnology center, the data processing school, the pharmaceutical technology school, and the technological cooperation in the nuclear industry.

We have established mutual preferential rates for all tariffs. All Argentine products enjoy preferential tariffs on the Brazilian market, and all Brazilian products enjoy preferential tariffs on the Argentine market.

In a new experience, we created a common set of customs regulations concerning capital assets, which are the driving force of development and the factor that increases productivity. We also adopted common customs regulations for the food industry.

In the transportation sector, the protocols of the document of integration permitted us to engage in fruitful negotiations that gave a final solution to old problems, simplified procedures, and accelerated the integration process of the transportation sector in the southern cone.

Mr President: We admit that the path toward integration has its own difficulties. Issues like power, communications, a common currency, and the automotive industry are among the subjects which, because of their complexity, demand an especially imaginative effort and perseverance from our negotiators. The achievement of total integration is a task for generations.

We know we have to engage in permanent negotiations to find appropriate solutions that can preserve our interests in a balanced manner, within the general framework of our common goals.

Never in our history have we been so far from any disagreement. Never has the dialogue between our two governments been so frank and friendly. Peace and cooperation are the natural imperatives of today, as is revealed by our exceptional achievements and by our valuable accomplishments.

This treaty has confirmed our final objective of creating a common market, and has ratified the basic principle that the process must be performed in a gradual, flexible, and realistic manner, seeking to balance the advantages.

This treaty has defined the major fields of negotiation and the manner in which the executive and the legislative branches of each country will approve the specific accords for harmonizing and coordinating our policies.

Mr President, we are also convinced that this treaty will promote Latin American integration. Latin America is our common environment; it is our point of departure and also our destination.

Brazil and Argentina want to be united and strong within a united and strong Latin America.

Latin America, however, has to confront dramatic problems like inflation, the foreign debt, and the fragility of the institutions.

The inflationary process has been the worst enemy of our economy. Inflation undermines the institutions by promoting pessimism and rebellion, and by encouraging disbelief in democracy and in the capacity to cope with crises. Inflation promotes demagoguery, distorts the image of political leaders and of public service, increases the vulnerability of a country, and renders nations defenseless when faced with the pressure exerted by powerful international interests. In addition, inflation is a permanent call to violence and destabilization.

The foreign debt that we have inherited is unfair. It is impossible to bear this burden, which has weakened our capacity to grow, has promoted recession, and has rendered us a continent that is a net exporter of capital. In Punta del Este, we created a group that meets in Rio de Janeiro in an effort to formulate our own proposal to face this problem.

The truth is that we can no longer endure the inaction of our creditors, in view of the need for a change in the consideration of the problem, which is a market issue but which also has a political side. Argentina and Brazil have made great efforts. I must say that we have not seen developed countries doing their share.

Mr President, my dear friend Raul Alfonsin: I once again express my admiration for you. I am convinced that our future will be more prosperous and more just, that our future leaders will know how to overcome the obstacles, settle the differences, and firmly continue with this task. I hereby promise to commit my life to the ideal of achieving unity in our America, under the objectives of our common destiny. [passage omitted]

Alfonsin, Sarney Hold First Meeting

PY2911174888 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Excerpts] President Raul Alfonsin held his first meeting with Brazilian President Jose Sarney this morning. The presidents stated that the integration treaty they are going to sign this afternoon is a historic step. We have a report by Silvera Martinez Porta on the Alfonsin-Sarney meeting from Government Palace:

[Begin report] Presidents Alfonsin and Sarney, who held their first meeting this morning, said that the documents they will sign this afternoon constitute a historic step and that they are the most important ones ever signed by the two countries. Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez said that this is a definite step in the integration process with Brazil. [passage omitted]

Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti will arrive this afternoon after the agreements between Argentina and Brazil are signed. Tomorrow Presidents Sanguinetti, Alfonsin, and Sarney will sign a trinational agreement. We should recall that Uruguay only participates in the integration agreement on the political aspect, not the economic aspect. [end report]

President Raul Alfonsin will leave for Mexico tomorrow to attend the inauguration of President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who is replacing Miguel de la Madrid. Alfonsin will depart after saying farewell to Brazilian President Jose Sarney.

Sign Ezeiza Nuclear Statement

PY3011001088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2222 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Nov (TELAM)—Brazilian President Jose Sarney and Argentine President Raul Alfonsin this afternoon signed the Ezeiza Declaration on nuclear policy. The document, which was signed at Government House, is part of the integration process undertaken by the two countries.

In their joint statement, the two presidents state their decision to continue to promote—through the Standing Committee on Nuclear Policy—close political contacts, various joint projects, and a smooth exchange of information, experience, and technicians.

The document states that these are the appropriate means to ensure a steady progress toward achieving lasting, effective cooperation mechanisms in the nuclear field in keeping with our solid friendship and our firm commitment to peace and development.

The document reaffirms that the nuclear programs of both countries are guided by an unwavering decision to promote peace, and that both parties are firmly convinced that their programs will bring about socioeconomic benefits.

The document also emphasizes the commitments assumed by both parties in their joint statements of Foz de Iguazu, Brasilia, Viedma, and Ipero.

Uruguay's Sanguinetti Arrives for Meetings

PY2911221888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2140 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Nov (TELAM)—Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti arrived at the military sector of Jorge Newbery Airport today at 1230. During his stay in Argentina, Sanguinetti will sign regional integration treaties with his Argentine and Brazilian counterparts.

Sanguinetti was welcomed by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and by members of the Argentine cabinet and by representatives of the Argentine Armed Forces. Sanguinetti, who received the honors appropriate to his rank, arrived aboard a jetliner of the Uruguayan state-owned airline PLUNA.

Alfonsin Visits Federal Republic of Germany

For FRG coverage of President Raul Alfonsin's visit to Germany, including his meetings with FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, see the FRG section of the 28 November West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Defense Minister Questioned on Armed Forces

PY2511125088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1945 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Nov (NA)—Today, Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena openly talked about the main problems in his ministry, which include "the difficult situation" of soldiers who have to make do with low salaries and "very old equipment," a situation that makes the streamlining of the Armed Forces difficult.

Regarding salaries, he said, "The matter is not solved by creating a system of privileged salaries. Besides, such a measure would not make any sense if we continue using obsolete equipment."

Jaunarena said that he would not remain at the head of the ministry for "a single moment" if he did not believe the Armed Forces were subordinate to the political power.

Jaunarena stressed that the present state of readiness of the Armed Forces "is adequate to defend the country against any imaginable external aggression."

Jaunarena reiterated that the president, in his capacity as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, will make the final decision on the situation of Corvette Captain Alfredo Astiz, whose file is in the hands of the Navy promotions board.

Jaunarena made these remarks during a radio program in which he answered questions from listeners.

Jaunarena said: "Today the Joint General Staff has a different role. This role includes planning the coordinated action of the different branches of the Armed Forces."

"The different branches have to feel they have an important role to play within the system," Jaunarena said. "We have achieved that" after "a very important effort" to defuse "the consequences and understandable resentment that remained after the war, particulary because we lost it," Jaunarena added.

Asked about a survey published in a metropolitan newspaper, showing that 37 percent of those questioned think that the Armed Forces are not subordinate to the civilian power (49 percent of those questioned said they are, and the rest did not know), Jaunarena said: "If they were not, I would not remain at the head of the ministry for a single moment."

"I think the survey shows that people increasingly feel that they are part of the political system," Jaunarena said. [passage omitted]

Asked why Argentina participates in joint military maneuvers with the United States after that country joined Great Britain 6 years ago in its aggression against Argentina, Jaunarena said: "Our relations with the United States are now normal."

"I believe it is important that we maintain relations with these two sovereign countries, which behave according to their own logic and maintain their own independence. From this position we can build a mature relationship, which should mean neither subordination nor a break in diplomatic relations," Jaunarena said. [passage omitted]

Jaunarena also talked about the case of Lieutenant Colonel Guillermo Janza. After praising the attitude of San Isidro Judge Alberto Piotti, Jaunarena said: "We are fully supporting and cooperating with his investigation of the case" of several clandestine arsenals recently found in Greater Buenos Aires.

Asked about the American Armies meeting in Mar del Plata last year, Jaunarena said Argentina "expressed the position dictated by the political power. I do not think the meeting vindicated the doctrine of national security," the minister added.

"The doctrine of national security no longer exists in Argentina," Jaunarena said.

Regarding the support that Brigadier Ernesto Crespo requested for the sale of the Pampa plane, Jaunarena said the request "was made during a meeting with congressmen from various political parties, and it means we need the support of all sectors to close the operation."

Jaunarena said there is a possibility "of selling from 300 to 400 Pampa planes to the United States."

Alfonsin Appoints Garzon New Labor Secretary
PY2911140488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0010 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 28 Nov (NA)—This afternoon, President Raul Alfonsin appointed Lucio Carlos Garzon Maceda as the new labor secretary. Garzon will replace Luis Lozano, who tendered his resignation last week. The new secretary will be sworn in at the White Room of the Government House at 1215 tomorrow. Garzon's name was suggested to Alfonsin by Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli.

Joint Venture With U.S. Will Exploit Lithium
PY2911212588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Summary] Santiago del Estero, 29 Nov (TELAM)—Brigadier General Raul Ricardo Mattiuzzi, deputy director of Military Industries, has reported that Military Industries and a U.S. company will exploit lithium in El Salar del Hombre Muerto, Catamarca Province.

Mattiuzzi said that the agreement, which will be signed with the Litio Corporation Company [name as received] to exploit lithium, will require an investment of $5 million. The agreement provides for further investments amounting to $60 million.

Pipeline Construction Under Study With Chile
PY2911140688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0418 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 28 Nov (EFE)—It was reported today in Buenos Aires that Argentina and Chile are studying the possibility of constructing a 960-km-long gas pipeline through the Andean Mountains to supply natural gas to Santiago from Argentine deposits in Neuquen Province.

The project has already been approved by the IDB and the Latin American Integration Institute (INTAL), and will require an investment of $400 million. This pipeline will also provide gas to the Chilean cities of Talcahuano, Linares, Talca, Curico, San Fernando, and Rancagua.

IDB, World Bank Grant Loans for Energy Sector
PY2911115188 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0214 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 28 Nov (DYN)—It was officially announced today that the World Bank and the IDB have granted approximately $500 million in loans to help finance the continuation of the Yacyreta hydroelectric project and for the "national electricity program" which have been declared programs of national interest by the executive branch.

The announcement was made at Government House, where a report was made of the signing of Decree No 1,648 approving the documents to be signed with the World Bank and the IDB. The loans will total $250 million for Yacyreta and $252 million for the so-called national electricity program. [passage omitted]

The decree was signed by President Raul Alfonsin, Interior Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Enrique Nosiglia, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, Public Works Minister Rodolfo Terragno, Finance Under Secretary Mario Brodersohn, and Energy Secretary Roberto Echarte.

It was pointed out that "the overall terms, amortization schedules, interest rate, and the other clauses contained in the documents to be signed are the usual ones used for this type of agreement and they are made to fit the purposes and objectives of these loans." [passage omitted]

Daylight Saving Time Implemented To Save Energy
PY2911144988 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1350 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 28 Nov (DYN)—According to official sources, government authorities have decided to set the clocks forward one hour during the December-March period to save energy and thus avoid possible energy cuts. [passage omitted]

Energy Secretary Roberto Echarte has said: "Contrary to what was originally scheduled, the Atucha I nuclear plant will not be operational on schedule. Instead of being operational by the end of this year, it will begin producing at the end of January. Therefore, we are compelled to reschedule the energy supply program that had been outlined for January and February." [passage omitted]

Echarte added that since the generators are currently operating at full capacity, if important equipment malfunctions, energy cuts must be implemented.

New Version of Armored Vehicle Announced
PY2811152188 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Nov 88 p 8

[Text] The military factory that manufactures the Argentine Medium Tank (TAM) has a project to build a 45-ton heavy armored vehicle, although its production in series is not yet being considered. This was revealed yesterday by Colonel Ruben Jose Lorenzo, retired. He also revealed that two TAM units are being tested abroad.

For reasons of commercial strategy, Col Lorenzo refused to name the countries where those units are being tested, and said that the countries are "inclined to purchase" this type of tank. He also announced that the factory will provide "all terrain" vehicles for the National Gendarmerie and the Argentine Naval Prefecture.

Col Lorenzo made these disclosures to a group of journalists, who later toured the factory.

The president of the military factory recalled the successful testing of the TAM in Ecuador last year, but noted that the contract for sale of 56 units has not been concluded. He also mentioned the TAM testing in the high desert temperatures in a Middle East country, "with remarkable results."

He added that a contract has been signed with the Argentine Army for the acquisition of six units for an Armored Cavalry brigade, and for the maintenance of 30 or 40 units.

Lastly, Col Lorenzo announced that the TAM will be exhibited in Gabon, Africa, next year, and that the factory is capable of building 10-12 tanks per year.

Ozone Monitoring Station Dedicated in Antarctica
PY2411164788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1234 GMT 24 Nov 88

[By Horacio Larrarter]

[Text] Vice Comodoro Marambio Base (Argentine Antartica), 24 Nov (TELAM)—An ozone monitoring station, which will measure some atmospheric parameters essential for studying the ozone layer over the Antarctica, was dedicated today at the meteorological center of the Vice Commodore Marambio Base.

The dedication ceremony was held on a sunny day, with a temperature of 6.4 degrees below zero. A balloon probe was launched, thus setting in motion a joint Argentine-Finnish project for the study of the different layers of the atmosphere and of the concentration of ozone up to an altitude of 25 km.

The ceremony was attended by the directors general of the Argentine and the Finnish meteorological services, Commdore Salvador Alaimo and Dr Erki Jatila, respectively; Finnish ambassador to Argentina Pertti A. Karkkainen; and Vice Commodore Leonidas Aldo Loza, who is the commander of this Argentine Air Force Base.

As the balloon rapidly rose into the sky, Erki Jatila said "good luck" and applauded.

Vice Commodore Alaimo said that this is an important step that reveals the significance of scientific cooperation, even between countries from different hemispheres, because everyone will run similar risks if the ozone layer becomes rarefied.

He explained that ozone is a gas with a molecular structure of three oxygen atoms and that it concentrates in the stratosphere, at an altitude of 20 to 30 km. He said that this layer is called the ozone layer and that it plays a very important role because it absorbs the sun's ultraviolet radiation. It is therefore a protective shield for animal life on the earth.

An excessive amount of ultraviolet radiation, he said, can cause skin cancer in humans and can seriously affect ecological systems and sea life.

He concluded by saying that information obtained by ground stations and meteorological satellites shows the ozone layer over the Antarctic has become seriously rarefied over the past decade.

Telephoto Transmission From Antarctica Reported
PY2411161488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1243 GMT 24 Nov 88

[By special correspondent Horacio Larrarte]

[Text] Vice Commodore Marambio Base (Argentine Antarctica), 24 Nov (TELAM)—ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise] official Carlos Scolari said here that the telephotos that were transmitted today from the Vice Commodore Marambio Antarctic Base represented the first experiment in this field, and that TELAM had the honor of transmitting them.

Scolari said that the transmission of telephotos was done by engineer Meliton Martinez, Roberto Romero, and six ENTEL technicians, who set up a satellite antenna in 40 days. This satellite antenna will make it possible to receive signals sent by Argentina Televisora Color Network (ATC) from the mainland, and to telephone through the DDN (National Direct Dialing) system.

Scolari said that this installation will allow a person in Antarctica to establish direct telephone communucation anywhere in Argentina. He concluded by saying that this was a real scoop for TELAM.

Molotov Cocktails Damage Police Automobiles
PY2811181288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1634 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Nov (NA)—Two Molotov cocktails were thrown this morning at an automobile agency in the locality of Moreno, Buenos Aires Province, where 25 vehicles were parked. These vehicles had been donated by the local municipality to the police.

The Molotov cocktails started a fire that partially destroyed two of the vehicles, according to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS sources.

The attackers also threw pamphlets containing slogans of the People's Revolutionary Army and with a star emblem that represents this dissolved guerrilla organization. The authorities, however, claim that the pamphlets "are not authentic."

Chile

Government Reacts to UN Human Rights Resolution

PY2911184688 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 29 Nov 88

[Text] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has described yesterday's proposed United Nations resolution on human rights in Chile as discriminatory, interventionist, and unacceptable. Here is Foreign Ministry Spokesman Carlos Ducci.

[Begin recording] [Ducci] The original draft resolution was presented by Mexico. It was very similar to previously approved United Nations resolutions. The draft resolution was prepared by Mexico through negotiations with other Latin American countries, especially with Colombia. It had to be amended because these countries, as I said, were not prepared to support an initiative of this nature.

Yesterday the proposal was circulating in Mexico, and it differs from the resolutions approved in previous years. These changes reflect not only the negotiations with other Latin American countries but also the new reality in Chile. I want to point out that we consider this resolution draft, regardless of its tone, discriminatory, openly interventionist in our domestic affairs, and therefore unacceptable.

[Unidentified reporter] Does this draft resolution urge the government to continue adopting measures to guarantee the establishment of a democratic system, including changes to the current situation in Chile?

[Ducci] No. I can only say what the government has stated many times before. In Chile we have a constitutional process and an institutional order that has been, and will be, fulfilled. [end recording]

* PCCh Party Leader on Negotiations, Goals

33480028a Santiago ANALISIS in Spanish 24 Oct 88 p 9

[Interview with Jaime Inzunza; date and place not given; first three paragraphs introduction]

[Text] On the night of the plebiscite it was one of the communist leaders who remained in permanent contact with the highest representatives of the Command for the No-Vote. Several times during the day he entered the headquarters in which the most important decisions were being made. All of the information gathered together was discussed with the leaders of the other parties and also, naturally, with the leadership of his group, the Communist Party (PC).

Jaime Inzunza, a 44-year-old professor, has devoted himself completely to politics. His involvement as a leader of the Popular Democratic Movement (MDP) forced him to go underground. His stay there ended this year; he returned to legal life and for 2 months toured several European countries. He returned to Chile a few weeks before the plebiscite.

Over the past weeks he has again been seen at Communist Party press conferences, at which the group expresses its opinions on political events in the country. The PC, Inzunza reports, is debating and assessing the course of events every day. And there are clear-cut, specific objectives, among them, to get Pinochet to leave power. They are convinced, he reiterates again and again, that "there is no transition to democracy with the dictator and his institutions."

[Question] The Coalition of Parties for Democracy made a proposal for negotiations with the armed forces. What do you Communists think of the content of the proposal?

[Answer] The proposal has positive elements that will enable the democratic forces to act in unison. We think that the proposal is positive when it says that Pinochet must leave power and when it places a high value on social mobilization. There are, of course, shortcomings.

[Question] Such as?

[Answer] The task of democracy demands more than amendments of the Constitution; the Constitution must eventually be repealed. We feel that there is a consensus that the Constitution is antidemocratic, which does not mean that headway cannot be made on substantive constitutional amendments that would guarantee respect for human rights and the possibility of holding truly free elections. In another vein, we feel that the failure to set a specific timetable is a shortcoming, because this is not a secondary problem. Pinochet's departure is a democratic requirement and does not depend on him; we cannot await ethical gestures from the dictator. This country cannot withstand 15 more months of dictatorship. What kind of free elections can be held with Pinochet in power?

[Question] All indications seem to be that the defeat of the yes vote has begun a phase of negotiations. What stand will the PC take?

[Answer] We are not opposed to negotiations; there are no reasons of principle to be. The essential point is to find out what is being negotiated and what objectives are being pursued. Any negotiation must be conducted with the active and ongoing presence of the people. A negotiation inside four walls and unrelated to what the people expressed with their no vote in the plebiscite cannot be positive for democracy.

[Question] Are you ruling out a break?

[Answer] Everyone agrees that any progress towards democracy entails a degree of break. There will be no true democracy without a break with the institutions of the dictatorship. And the reforms that the 16 parties are calling for imply breaking with the substantive elements of Pinochet's institutions.

[Question] An agreed upon break, then?

[Answer] In a way, yes. But what the no vote on 5 October is saying is that a break, regardless of the form it takes, means putting the dictatorial regime behind us and developing a new democratic one. This is achieved through mobilization and joint action by the democratic forces.

[Question] Does a break like this also entail the use of all forms of struggle?

[Answer] Without question. In the understanding, of course, that each political moment requires forms of struggle that are in keeping with the situation.

[Question] In a word, what currency does "acute violence" have, as Luis Corvalan once described it?

[Answer] This concept refers to the fact that faced with a dictatorship the people could not restrict their struggle to those forms that they had historically developed. Faced with a dictatorship, the people have had, have and will have to resort to all forms that may be necessary, including self-defense against the regime's violence and terror.

[Question] What do you think of the proposal to create an instrumental party of the left?

[Answer] The main thing is to put an end to the dictatorship to achieve truly free elections. Any proposal, such as the one that you have mentioned, must pursue that objective. If an instrumental party of United Left contributes to that end, then it is something that we are prepared to talk over.

[Question] Some fear that such a decision would require an accord that could be achieved only in a Congress. Is there a PC Congress?

[Answer] We Communists are always talking things over.

Sinclair Takes Oath as Government Junta Member

PY3011025788 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Lieutenant General Santiago Sinclair was sworn in as a new member of the government junta, replacing Lieutenant General Humberto Gordo Rubio.

The swearing-in ceremony, which was presided over by Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, was held behind closed doors on the 16th floor of the Diego Portales Building.

Asked whether he supported any amendment to the Constitution, Sinclair told the press that any amendment to the Constitution should be carefully analyzed.

[Begin Sinclair recording] This question really deserves a more complete explanation. I think my work will be mainly legislative. I will be willing to deal with any matter concerning my duties.

Regarding your question on the amendment to the Constitution, as you know the initiative on this subject has been left in the hands of the executive branch. I think the Constitution is a legal instrument, an extraordinarily valuable, important, and very complex document, and any amendment should be analyzed very carefully because everything is closely intertwined in this document. [end recording]

Concerning his new post, Sinclair stated that he was fully aware of the great responsibility of having been designated a member of the government junta.

[Begin Sinclair recording] I am fully aware of the great responsibility that my post entails, and I hope to contribute to the valuable and very productive legislative work that is being carried out by members of the government junta made up of the commanders in chief of the Navy and the Air Force, by the Carabineros director, and by consultants and advisers to the legislative commissions. [end recording]

During the swearing-in ceremony, Admiral Jose Toribio Merino stated, among other things, that he was sure that being an intelligent man, a gentleman, a hard worker and a man dedicated to serving his fatherland, General Sinclair will contribute to the enhancement of the legislative work.

In his farewell speech to General Humberto Gordon, Admiral Toribio Merino said the members of the government junta had the privilege of knowing and sharing high-level responsibilities with a good-natured man who earned the recognition, confidence, and friendship of the members of the junta because of his modesty, sense of justice, professional zeal, and desire to serve the fatherland.

In his speech, General Gordon stressed the important work he had carried out in the legislative branch and asked his colleagues to extend to General Sinclair the same esteem and support he had received from them.

Finance Minister Reports on Trade Balance

PY2911140088 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Nov 88 pp B-1, B-12

[Summary] Finance Minister Hernan Buchi has reported that Chilean exports increased 33 percent last October and that the trade balance up to that month shows a surplus of $1.623 billion. He also reported that the Chilean economy registered a 6.6-percent growth rate in the first quarter of this year.

Government Appoints 10th Region Intendant
PY2911140288 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Nov 88 p C-13

[Summary] President Pinochet has appointed Enrique Larre Asenjo as the new intendant of the 10th region replacing Brigadier General Jorge Iturriaga Moreira. Pinochet also confirmed the following intendants in their posts: Lieutenant Colonel Juan Emilio Cheyre Espinoza of the Second Region; Major General Eduardo Ibanez Tilleria, retired, of the Eighth Region; and Brigadier General Alejandro Gonzalez Samohod of the Ninth Region. With the new appointment, eight intendants are civilians and five are military.

Southern Military Region Commander Appointed
PY2911135988 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Nov 88 p C-9

[Summary] Punta Arenas—Yesterday, Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal attended the ceremony in which Major General Mario Navarrete handed over the command of the Southern Military Region to Major General Patricio Gualda.

In his speech, Gen Navarrete pointed out that, despite attempts by several political groups, peace and order were maintained in the region during the 18-month period in which he was the region's commander.

New 5th Army Division Commander Installed
PY2911143288 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Nov 88 p C-6

[Summary] Punta Arenas—Brigadier General Richard Quaas was installed as 5th Army Division commander at 1200 today. Gen Quaas replaces Brigadier General Francisco Martinez Benavides.

Colombia

FARC, M-19 Accept Government Peace Proposal
PA2911142088 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1225 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Bogota—The subversives of the self-styled FARC and M-19 have agreed to an 80-day deadline to establish conditions for the signing of a lasting peace proposal. Former Minister Alvaro Leyva Duran, who made this proposal, has made this known in a message he sent to the Colombian president.

According to the proposal, the government must issue a decree creating a five-member commission which would have 30 days to decide whether minimum conditions exist to establish a direct dialogue between the government and the subversives. The government would then take 20 days to decide how, when, and where direct talks could be held with the guerrillas. Such a dialogue would then be held within 30 days and would lead to the signing of a peace treaty. The FARC and the M-19 have said they agree with this proposal.

General Henao Comments on Antiguerrilla Actions
PA2911230588 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2230 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Bogota, 28 Nov (DPA)—A total of 30 guerrillas belonging to various Colombian rebel groups were reportedly killed in clashes with the Army during the past 3 days, Armed Forces chief General Nelson Mejia Henao reported today.

Gen Mejia Henao said the guerrillas "are feeling the weight and determination of the military to confront them with good equipment, good supplies and men well trained in antiguerrilla warfare."

Gen Mejia Henao said that in the past few hours "30 guerrillas have died in Caqueta, Meta, and the Uraba Region, while the Army lost 2 soldiers."

Gen Mejia Henao added that "although I prefer not to talk on the subject, my duty as Armed Forces chief is to take action, and we will continue until we have finished with the guerrilla groups."

Mejia Henao said that "this blow against the FARC near its general command in La Uribe (in eastern Colombia) will continue to have positive results." He gave as an example the fact that 21 guerrillas were killed by the Army's 7th Brigade, who, in face to face combat, destroyed one of the guerrilla squads in charge of supplying guerrillas in Meta Department.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Guillermo Plazas Alcid spoke in favor of implementing "a severe law against subversion and terrorism." However, he cast doubt on the effectiveness of life sentences, which are to be implemented in the country for the first time.

Plazas stressed the need for a law to turn that severe punitive measure into "a permanent mechanism."

After the Security Council meeting, Plazas said the measures announced by President Barco last Friday in his radio and television message to the nation had been discussed.

M-19 Inflicts 2 Casualties on Army in Caqueta
PA2911175488 (Clandestine) Radio Patria Libre in Spanish to Colombia 0030 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Florencia, Caqueta Department—The M-19 Gloria Amanda Rincon Front has clashed with Colombian Army 12th Infantry Brigade troops headed by Colonel Norberto Abdiel Cordoba.

The clashes took place on 27 November at Bocana, Batato Corregimiento, approximately 40 km from Florencia, capital city of Caqueta Department in southern Colombia.

The chief of the 12th Infantry Brigade admitted the M-19 Gloria Amanda Rincon Front inflicted two casualties on his troops during the clashes and added that his troops also killed several guerrillas.

* Guerrillas Seek Dialogue With Government

56002005z Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Oct 88 p 8-A

[Text] The Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinator proposed last night that President Virgilio Barco establish a high-level government commission, made up of three ministers, to undertake a direct dialogue with the commanders of the various armed rebel groups in order to seek political solutions to the armed conflict.

This was contained in a document supporting the peace initiative that was presented by the chief of state on 1 September 1988.

The following is the text of the guerrilla response:

Mr President:

Your government's peace initiative sparked an extensive public debate, pointing out once again that the fundamental question in the country is that of war and peace. But this proposal has fallen on deaf ears in the absence of national participation, the lack of good faith negotiations, and real alternatives for political, economic, and social solutions.

The country wants the public rights canceled by the state of siege to be re-established, the end of the dirty war, and a decent society based on a climate which promotes better conditions for life, work, well-being, and sovereignty.

The nation has not been silent about this. Several sectors have set forth wide-ranging proposals with regard to social problems and have proposed solutions appropriate to the country's current realities.

As an active part of this growing awakening of opinion, the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinator proposes:

1. A meeting between the government and the commanders of the guerrilla forces to discuss a political solution with regard to life, democracy, and national sovereignty.

2. That these discussions be held at the highest level by the ministers of government, defense, and mines, and the commanders of the member forces of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinator.

3. That the Commission for Democratic Coexistence attend the meeting as an official observer.

We are certain that an affirmative response to this as well as resolutions to the complex social conflict will allow Colombia's future to be brighter.

Comrades:
Gildardo Fernandez, commander of the Indian movement Quintin Lame.
Valentin Gonzalez, national directorate of the PRT [Revolutionary Worker's Party].
Manuel Perez, political chief of the UC-ELN [Camilist Union-Army of National Liberation].
Francisco Caraballo, commander of the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] and the secretary general of the Communist Party/Marxist-Leninist.
Carlos Pizarro, commander of M-19.
Manuel Marulanda Velez, commander of the FARC-EP.

Ecuador

Borja Declines Invitation to Mexican Inauguration

PA2911200888 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The National Public Information Secretariat has announced that President Rodrigo Borja regrets very much that he will be unable to attend the Mexican presidential inauguration, to which he had been invited along with other Latin American presidents. The reason is that the date of the ceremony coincides with the solemn ceremony at the Quito city council to mark the founding of Quito on 1 December.

The president said he does not want to be absent from the Quito anniversary celebration because he has attended similar celebrations in other cities of the country. National Public Information Secretary Gonzalo Ortiz explained that this circumstance prevents the president from attending the Mexican inaugural ceremony, which some Latin American presidents will attended. [passage omitted]

Paraguay

Official Seeks Foreign Private Investment

PY2511180788 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Nov 88 p 6

[Text] The lack of growth that has plagued Paraguay's gross domestic product (GDP) since 1986, owing to the poor performance of agriculture, livestock and industry, has prompted Paraguay to search for investments in the foreign private sector in order to obtain new technology and capital. Last week, Paraguayan Industry Ministry Delfin Ugarte Centurion met with representatives of the Sao Paulo business sector at the office of the Foreign Trade Study Center Foundation [Fundacao Centro de Estudos do Comercio Exterior] (FUNCEX).

Ugarte Centurion submitted a program to encourage foreign investment. This program includes a 50-percent discount on taxes for 5 years and the ability to remit 100 percent of the profits without restrictions to the investor's country for an indefinite period of time. If the company wants to repatriate its investments it will be able to freely dispose of all its assets within 8 years.

In addition to these advantages, Paraguay offers total tax exemptions on exports and imports which, in the case of certain products, will compensate for higher transportation rates resulting from Paraguay's use of ports in the River Plate Basin and in southern Brazil. The newly established industries will not be obliged to seek a minimum investment of national capital.

According to Ugarte Centurion, Paraguay wants to obtain technology and investments for the processing of agricultural products and other sectors that employ large numbers of workers because the Paraguayan economy is still based on the manufacturing of basic products. There is special interests in textiles, metal working, and soybean industries. Approximately 93 percent of Paraguayan exports—which in 1986 amounted to $233 million—are made up of cotton, soybeans, and timber.

Political Analyst Miranda Released From Jail

PY2911125188 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
29 Nov 88 p 9

[Text] Yesterday a few minutes after being released from jail, where he was held incommunicado for 13 days without being given the reasons for his arrest, writer and political analyst Anibal Miranda said: "My time in the special security prison was like a crash course in survival. I doubt there is something similar to this anywhere in the world. These were harsh and exhausting days."

Miranda told the newspaper HOY that he was never told why he was arrested. "They did not tell me anything. At first, during an interrogation, I was asked many questions about my books and about my political and religious activities. It seems they are very interested in the latter." He attributed his arrest to the fact that he had properly reported the theft of his car to police, a car later found in the possession of Encarnacion police officials.

Miranda also said that during his arrest he was able to talk to the money exchangers who are illegally under arrest. He said: "They are in a bad state because they have no news and they do not know how long they will be in jail."

Police Prevent PLRA 'Routine Meeting'

PY2811150988 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
28 Nov 88 p 8

[Text] Yesterday uniformed and plainclothes policemen prevented about 100 Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] leaders from entering the party headquarters (Haedo and 15 de Agosto Streets) to attend a "routine meeting" of the "rank and file." Four policemen, stationed in front of the headquarters building, forced the politicians to leave. They were told that by orders from "higher authority" they would not be allowed to enter the party headquarters.

The house of PLRA leader Domingo Laino and another house chosen as an alternative meeting site were also surrounded by police. However, the police deployment did not prevent the PLRA from holding its meeting in another location where they discussed all the issues on the agenda.

Laino discussed a project to expand the National Accord. He gave an overall picture of a project to allow several social and political organizations to join the accord.

Regarding the police effort to prevent the meeting, PLRA youth leader Waldino Montes de Oca said that the police action is "part of a repressive measure. The government believes it can corner the PLRA, but it is wrong."

Archbishopric Communique on Concepcion Events

PY2811205788 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
27 Nov 88 p 26

[Communique issued by the Asuncion Archbishopric: "Where Are We Going?"—no date given. Words appearing in all caps as published]

(Text] The church's song book has a song that says: We Christians "are the seed of another kingdom—we are testimony of love—peace for wars and light for darkness-- the pilgrim church of God." We want to refer to the light. We know that light brightens the environment, dispels darkness, fills us with joy and security. The church wants to be that "light" among the many shadows that are the lies, the stereotyped utterances, the deceit, the error, the ingorance... And we will be that light when we declare ourselves defenders of the truth, when we call things by their true names, but with respect and dignity.

The strange and serious events that have taken place in Concepcion, affecting its church and its people, are important enough for the "1988 Concepcion case" to be recorded in history with names, surnames, and dates. We support Msgr Maricevich and his people.

But these events have also yielded salutary effects, as for example allowing the emergence of moral, intellectual, and sociopolitical ideas, as well as allowing the adoption of ideological and religious positions by some leaders of the Colorado Party. In fact, the labor and justice minister has stated: "This is a democratic country. Anyone can say what he thinks and what he feels..." (Asuncion EL DIARIO, 15 November 1988, p 10—national news)

2. [Number as published] Mr Ramon Aquino, member of the Colorado Party Executive Board, has stated: "But what do I care about the church..?" "I say: If they

(bishops and priests) die first, they will wait for me at hell's doorsteps... because that is our place." "I do not care about the church..." (Asuncion HOY- 17 November 1988, p 8—local news)

3. Colorado Party Deputy Silvio Meza Britez has stated: "His remarks—Ramon Aquino's—are absolutely personal, and for this reason we have to admire and priase his position, for maintaining a stand of that nature." (HOY, 18 November 1988)

THIS MEANS THAT according to these ideas it is always legal to publicly express what one thinks or feels, without taking into consideration prudence, the occasion, and the rights of the person, and without worrying whether what is being said is true, an error, or a lie. When and where, then, would it be a case of [illegible] or calumny? See the national Constitution, Articles 50, 54, 71, 72, and 76.

Moreover, this idea, should it be right and just, would be universal, valid for all citizens and men on the earth. But this is not the case among us.

1. Because anything in any tone can be said against the people and institutions of the church, against opposition political parties, and against the so-called "irregular" groups.

2. But nothing can be said against members of the government or the government party, because everything and everyone are well, and any criticism, denunciation, or petition to the government is a crime, an attack on the security and peace prevailing in the country. It is communism... and, as such, implacably punished.

In our opinion, the correct formula should be: In a democratic country there must be liberty for all, liberty to say what one thinks and feels for the good of all, and to contribute to the unity and peace of the people.

Jesus said: "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say unto you that for every idle word that men speak, they shall give account on Judgment Day. For by thy words shalt thou be justified, and by thy words shalt thou be condemned." (Mat 12; 34-37)

And what is most serious is that the principle announced and implemented leaves an opening for social chaos, a generalized hatred, and an all-out battle. Under such a supposedly democratic idea there can be no peace, because neither the dignity nor the rights of the people are recognized. For this reason the church must be the "light" of truth. Jesus is our LIGHT, and with this LIGHT we will build a new Paraguay.

Drug Control Personnel Arrest Trafficker

PY2911215188 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 29 Nov 88 p 56

[Text] Shortly after noon today, unofficial sources reported that personnel of the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Directorate, which is a branch of the Interior Ministry, this morning arrested Paraguayan citizen Roberto Paredes, a civilian pilot.

Paredes faces charges in connection with the confiscation of 268.4 kg of cocaine. Some foreigners who are being held at the Tacumbu prison and at the El Buen Pastor women's prison are also involved in this drug deal. Judge Pablo Vicente Ibarra issued a warrant for the arrest of Paredes.

The report says that Paredes was apparently arrested in downtown Asuncion.

Peru

Shining Path Reportedly Linked to Mining Strike

PY2911202988 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Energy and Mines Minister Jose Carlos Carrasco Tavara today stated that there is evidence that the Labor Movement of Class-Oriented Workers, which is a branch of the Shining Path terrorist group, has decided to prolong the mining strike for 3 months in order to damage the Peruvian economy and to disrupt the democratic system.

This possibility might come true if the Mining Federation leadership does not adopt a position different from the one they have been maintaining during the the past week with respect to the proposal we have made to them, Carrasco Tavara said.

Striking Miners Clash With Police, Arrests Made

PY3011024988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0125 GMT 30 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Lima, 29 Nov (EFE)—Police sources have reported that at least 30 miners were injured and 30 others arrested today in a clash with Peruvian police on Venezuela Avenue, which links Lima and the port of Callao.

Groups of miners, who have been on strike for 44 days, erected barricades in several places along the avenue, using rocks, tree trunks, and burning tires. The miners also stoned vehicles, causing traffic to be diverted.

The demonstrators clashed with a 90-man police force, who used water cannons and a small tank.

According to official figures, the strike that some 70,000 miners have staged in Peru has caused losses of approximately $400 million. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Sanguinetti To Meet With Alfonsin, Sarney

PY2911171088 Montevideo Radio Libertad Sport Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tomorrow, Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Brazilian President Jose Sarney, and Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti will take another step toward regional integration when they meet in Buenos Aires.

Uruguayan President Sanguinetti will leave for Buenos Aires this afternoon at (?1800). [passage indistinct]

Third Opposition Presidential Candidate Announced

PY2811132788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0111 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Durazno, Uruguay, 27 Nov (EFE)—The National (White) Party, which is the main opposition party in Uruguay, today announced the third presidential ticket for the elections to be held next year.

At a public ceremony held in Durazno, 183 km north of Montevideo, the "White" majority faction nominated Senator Alberto Saenz de Zumaran as candidate for the presidency of Uruguay. Senator Guillermo Garcia Costa is included on the ticket as vice presidential candidate. Both are considered to be the "heirs" of the majority group's "For the Fatherland" founder, the late political leader, Wilson Ferreira Aldunate. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Presidential Candidate Perez Interviewed

PM2911105488 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Nov 88 p 5

[Interview with presidential candidate Carlos Andres Perez by Daniel Vernet in Caracas—date not given]

[Text] Caracas—[Vernet] What about the peace efforts in Central America?

[Perez] We must revive the Contadora initiative, but above all we must help the Central American countries which are themselves seeking a solution. We must try to establish good relations with the new U.S. Administration because, without blaming Washington entirely, its policy has been contrary to the Contadora Group's action. The reason for this was that the Reagan Administration worked on the basis of the idea that a military solution is the only solution in Central America.

[Vernet] Do the Sandinists also bear some responsibility?

[Perez] Probably. For a long time they were tough, dogmatic, and totalitarian. And, to some extent, they were encouraged by the United States' own hard line. In talks with the Contadora Group they adopted a more open attitude and then backpedaled, and that contributed to the deadlock. But we must not lose hope. I am not satisfied with the work hitherto carried out by the Contadora Group. However, we are going to continue to exert pressure on the Sandinists and on the United States.

I also think that the debt crisis and the economic situation we are experiencing in Latin America have undermined the peace process.

[Vernet] If you are elected, what will you do to tackle the debt problem?

[Perez] The foreign debt is at the heart of the crisis in Latin America. The creditor countries must recognize that the system which has hitherto prevailed can no longer function. I recently attended a conference in Harvard where these problems were discussed. We initiated an exchange of views between the debtors and creditors. We must create a new atmosphere, and any new policy begins with consultation between the Latin American countries. For the first time, eight Latin American presidents met in Acapulco in 1987; these regular meetings will continue.

[Vernet] Do you expect Europe to do anything?

[Perez] Yes, a great deal. The proposal made by Francois Mitterrand at the summit of the most highly industrialized countries in Toronto are very clear and pave the way for a reduction in the debt. We earnestly hope that Felipe Gonzalez' and Francois Mitterrand's successive terms as EEC chairman next year will give new direction to Europe's Latin American policy.

[Vernet] OPEC seems to be in complete disarray, undermined by a policy of every man for himself....

[Perez] OPEC's responsibility is at stake in the distortions observed in price developments. This is for economic reasons: A barrel of oil at 30 dollars was a real attack by OPEC on itself. It is also for political reasons: During the Iraq-Iran war Saudi Arabia's dominance was harmful.

If the situation is stabilized, an OPEC summit like the 1975 Algiers summit might lead to cooperation between oil-producing countries and consumer countries and make a price adjustment possible. In any event, OPEC must abandon the erroneous view by which it tries to earn more by selling a great deal of oil at low prices—as it is now doing—rather than selling less at higher prices.

[Vernet] You met Fidel Castro at the new Ecuadoran president's inauguration. Do you not think it is paradoxical for Cuba to try to rejoin the Latin American entity when at home Castro is reluctant to adopt any kind of Gorbachev-style restructuring?

[Perez] That is because Fidel Castro has no Brezhnev to blame for all the mistakes! But major changes are presently being made in Cuban policy. Castro thinks that it is not in his interests to interfere in the internal affairs of Latin American countries in which guerrilla movements are finding other sources of finance. Without Cuba, the Latin American entity is not complete.

[Vernet] Does the result of the Chilean referendum make you optimistic?

[Perez] The Latin American countries' support for democracy is irreversible. But the irreversible nature of democracy itself depends on one question—the settlement of the debt problem. With regard to Chile, the future is largely linked to the democratic parties' ability to remain united. If public opinion felt it had been deceived, the man who lost the referendum might well win future elections. We must use our influence with our Chilean friends to ensure that they live up to the expectations of that great people who won the referendum battle.